



# THE HAPPY TEACHER

## C IS FOR COCOA: VOCABULARY WORDS & DEFINITIONS

1. Ant - A tiny insect with large head, has a sting, lives in colonies or organized social groups; only fertile adults have wings.
2. Avocado - A fruit with rough dark green or purple skin, smooth light green flesh, and a large seed in the middle.
3. Avogato - Avocado in Spanish.
4. Bamboo - A tall plant with hard hollow stems that are used for building and to make furniture and other items; favorite food of pandas.
5. Bread - A baked food, made with flour or meal and yeast.
6. Butterflies - Insects that have a long thin body, bright colored wings and that fly mostly during the day.
7. Canopy - The highest layer of branches in a forest or on a tree; a covering that hangs from above.
8. Chickens - A land-loving bird raised by people for its eggs and meat. Capable of short flights, such as over a fence or into a tree.
9. Children - A young or recently born person; son or daughter of human parents.
10. Chocolate - a dark brown candy or flavoring made from cacao or cocoa beans.
11. Cocoa - English for the Spanish word cacao; dried seeds of a tropical tree used to make cocoa products.
12. Coconuts - Large, round fruit with thick shell, white flesh, and liquid inside that grows on a palm tree.
13. Culture - Ways of behaving; ways of life.
14. Dog - A domestic meat-eating mammal, with four legs and a tail.
15. Drum - The oldest instrument in the world. Most African drums are carved from solid logs of wood.
16. Eating - Taking in your mouth to ingest, chew, and swallow.
17. Egg - Fragile shell body from chickens, yolk and white inside eaten by humans.
18. Fish - Cold-blooded animal that lives in water, breathes with gills, and usually has fins and scales.
19. Fisherman - Man who makes a living catching fish.
20. Flesh - Soft parts of a human or animal body underneath the skin.
21. Garden Egg - Looks like a cucumber, tastes like squash. Popular for stews.
22. Gari - Grated product made from the tubers of the cassava plant, cooked and used in the same manner as rice; popular in Ghana.



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23. Ghana – First country in sub-Saharan Africa to gain independence from colonial rule. It's a republic with 25 million people; English is the official language but more than 25 others are spoken. Its southern border is along the Atlantic Ocean.
24. Ginger – Strongly flavored root of a tropical plant, used as a spice.
25. Goat – Mammal used for milk, wool, and flesh; has backwards horns.
26. Grass – Plant that grows from the ground with narrow green leaves.
27. Green Pepper – Hollow, round vegetable, green on the outside.
28. Hen – A female chicken.
29. Ice – Frozen water.
30. Jollof - A West African dish of rice, tomatoes, onions, peppers, and meat.
31. Kente – Hand-woven cloth from Ghana made of silk, cotton, and rayon on wooden looms. Designs tell stories, proverbs, values, and riddles and include cultural images, such as combs, anteaters, and hands. Legend says watching spiders weave their webs inspired kente weaving.
32. Leaf – Flat, usually green, outgrowth of a plant stem.
33. Lion – Large, heavy cat, with shaggy mane and a tail.
34. Lizard - Reptile with four legs, tail longer than body, scaly skin, movable eyelids.
35. Mango – Tropical fruit with sweet juicy flesh, stone inside, yellowish-red skin.
36. Motif – A single or repeated pattern or design.
37. Mountain - An area of land that rises very high above the land around it and that is higher than a hill.
38. Mud – Soft wet earth that can dry and be shaped into hard rock-like forms.
39. Net - Open-meshed fabric twisted, knotted, or woven together in a pattern.
40. Ocean – Salt water that covers much of the earth's surface.
41. Onion - Round ringed veggie; white, yellow, or red; strong smell and taste.
42. Orange – Round fruit, tough yellowish or orange skin, sweet juicy pulp inside.
43. Palm Oil - Oil from the fruit of some palm trees; for cooking; making soap.
44. Pineapples - Large fruit that grows on a tropical tree; has thick skin, sweet, juicy, yellow flesh.



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45. Plantain – A fruit that grows outward (like feet); looks like a green, thicker banana; eaten as a vegetable in tropical countries.
46. Queen Mother – Often the highest rank an African woman can attain; viewed as keeper of tradition and wisdom, with knowledge in legal and political matters; considered chief “king-maker.” In C is for Cocoa, the Queen Mother pictured is a ceremonial queen. She does not live in the village, but has accepted responsibility to bring the village resources, such as educational opportunities and support, jobs, water supply, and sanitation services.
47. Rainforest – A thick, hot, humid “self-watering” forest where plants release water into the atmosphere; receives a high amount of rainfall each year; at least two-thirds of all plant species grow there.
48. Rice – Small starchy brown or white seeds from a “cereal grass” plant.
49. Spinach – Plant with dark, green leaves, eaten as a vegetable cooked or raw.
50. Soup – A liquid food made by cooking vegetables and meat or fish.
51. Steady – Firm, stable, showing little variation or fluctuation.
52. Sugarcane – A grass plant that grows fibrous tubes from which we get sugar.
53. Tomatoes – Round, soft, red fruit eaten as a vegetable cooked or raw. P
54. Umbrella Tree – Grows in Ghana, recognized by big oval leaves, arranged in circle like an umbrella top.
55. Village – A small community generally located in a rural area.
56. Vulture – A large bird with a small featherless head that eats dead animals.
57. Water – Clear, colorless liquid that falls from clouds as rain, forms streams, lakes, and seas, and is used for drinking, cooking, washing, and more.
58. Watermelon – Large round or oval fruit, red, watery, and pulpy inside, hard green shell outside.
59. Wobbly – Shaky, unsteady, moving from side to side.
60. Xylophone – Musical instrument of graduated, slender, rectangular wooden bars that is played by hitting with two small wooden hammers.
61. Yam – Large tuberous veggie, related to the sweet potato. Usually brown outside; can be white, yellow, or orange inside.
62. Zebra – An African animal that looks like a horse and has unique black (or dark brown) and white stripes all over its body. Sadly, zebras don’t live in Ghana.

*\*Editor’s Note: Merriam-Webster.com was the source for the majority of this page’s definitions, although not all are direct quotes from the dictionary site. See U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s page [here](#) for more on the African Queen Mother. Learn more about contemporary Ghana at [Ghana.gov.gh](#) and [ghanaweb.com](#)*