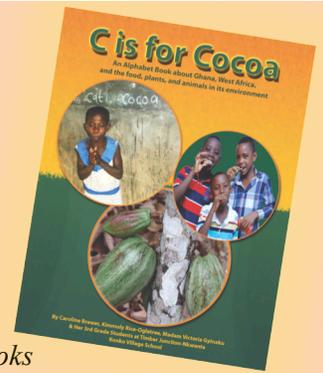


Welcome to the  
***C IS FOR COCOA Funtastic Toolkit***  
by ***Author Caroline Brewer!***



*Below are the many ways you can use the book to inspire in your children a love of books and learning as they enjoy every step of the journey. Some activities are located in the D.C./Maryland/Virginia region, but if you live outside this region, please investigate your community for similar activities. We bet you and your children will be pleasantly surprised.*

1. ***C is for Cocoa*** is filled with 73 color photos of children and objects encased in 11 shapes, including the rarely seen trapezoids and parallelograms taught about in Math classes. It features more than 60 vocabulary words and definitions, from ant to zebra. It also has 25 sets of rhyming words, 15 Key Facts, such as the fact that Ghana has the only butterfly sanctuary in West Africa, and that some of the nation's mud houses date to the 1850s. The authors guarantee that children who read the book or have the book read to them will be motivated to read and learn more!
2. ***C is for Cocoa*** has the answer to: What inspiring activities can parents in the DMV do with kids on weekends or while on a staycation? ***C is for Cocoa*** represents a tour of Ghana – its people, food, plants, animals, music, and culture, so...
  - Parents (and teachers) can help children make dishes with foods native to Ghana by choosing from 5 recipes costing \$10 or less found at our website, including chocolate-coconut bars, fruit smoothies and smoothie-sicles, fried plantains, and jollof rice! (Several recipes provide a cure for a nagging sweet tooth!)
  - Parents (and teachers) can lead children in a game of Vocabulary BINGO, which most children love playing, so play until you're exhausted and help your child almost effortlessly expand his vocabulary and reading comprehension! (Instructions and game cards can be found here.)
  - Parents (and teachers) can lead children in building their rhyming skills with ***C is for Cocoa***. We know that children love rhymes because they're fun. But research tells us that rhyme builds memory, vocabulary, and confidence faster than any other reading technique. Confidence is crucial in helping struggling and beginning readers see themselves as fluent, successful readers. Rhymes, as in nursery rhymes, of course, are introduced to children at infancy and help them take their first steps up the ladder of literacy achievement. Use the rhyming word sets attached here to play games of adding more to the set or scouring the book for words that can have rhymes added to them. If you have more than one child, make it a competition. If you have enough children to pair them, create teams, and enjoy!
  - Parents (and teachers) can enhance children's understanding of Phonics. ***C is for Cocoa*** contains many examples of long vowels, Short vowels, Silent e, Vowel and Consonant Blends. Moreover, there are four very common vowel pairs in this book. They are: **ou**, as in soup; and **ai**, as in rain; **ee**, as in tree, and **ea** as in leaf. The phonics lessons are nearly unlimited with this book, especially when you use the Key Facts sections.
  - Parents (and teachers) can enhance children's understanding of Proper Nouns – As you know, Proper Nouns, in general, are like common nouns. They identify people, places, things, events, qualities and ideas. But Proper Nouns could be considered Super Nouns because they have the power to **name** things. Names make things unique and powerful. For instance, help your students understand that their names are Proper Nouns. The name of the city, town, or county they reside in is a Proper Noun. Each student and his hometown are unique. They are the only ones that exist and that gives them power.

3. Parents and teachers can take children outside to explore connections to Ghana in the D.C. metropolitan area. For instance:

- The [United States Botanic Garden](#) features a cocoa plant, which grows in abundance in Ghana and has helped fuel its economy by making Ghana the second largest supplier of cocoa in West Africa. The International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) says that Americans consume the most chocolate of any country -764,000 tons a year. American chocolate makers, such as Mars, Nestle, and Hershey's are top buyers of cocoa from Ghana.
- Meridian Hill/Malcolm X Park is host to African drummers on summer Sunday afternoons for hours. The drummers play African beats on drums just like those found all over Ghana, where drummers are held in the highest esteem.
- Ghanaian Master Kente Cloth Weaver Kwasi Asare – whose kente masterpiece now hangs at the U.N. - gives weaving workshops for children that allow them to take home their own kente cloth. He lives in D.C. and can be reached for school and group presentations by emailing: [kwasisister@gmail.com](mailto:kwasisister@gmail.com)
- We've seen umbrella trees, just like the one pictured in *C is for Cocoa*, in the DC area for sale and in people's offices. Check out some plant stores to see if you can find an umbrella tree to purchase and take to your home or classroom.

Take your children on a tour of your neighborhood or community to see if they can identify items in the environment, art, or culture that are from Ghana or the African continent or some other part of the world similar to items found in *C is for Cocoa*.

*C is for Cocoa*, which can be purchased at [carolinebrewerbooks.com/books](http://carolinebrewerbooks.com/books), can also serve as an important tool for meeting Common Core language arts standards, which encourage the use of non-fiction literature.