* Cacao trees grow in tropical areas such as South America, Asia, Africa, South Pacific Islands, Indonesia, and the Caribbean.
* Cacao trees flourish in wet, lowland areas in the shade of larger trees so they are sheltered from too much sunlight or wind.
* Farmers must let the trees grow for 3-5 years before they produce their first pods.
* Cacao trees are about 40 feet tall and have one-foot long leaves.
* The 50-70 pods produced on each of these trees each contain 25-50 seeds, which are called cocoa beans.
* Cacao harvesting is done by hand twice each year.
* After picking, the fruit is split open with a machete (big knife), and the beans are allowed to dry in shallow boxes for a week before shipping.



Pod after being opened.



Pods hang from a Cacao tree.