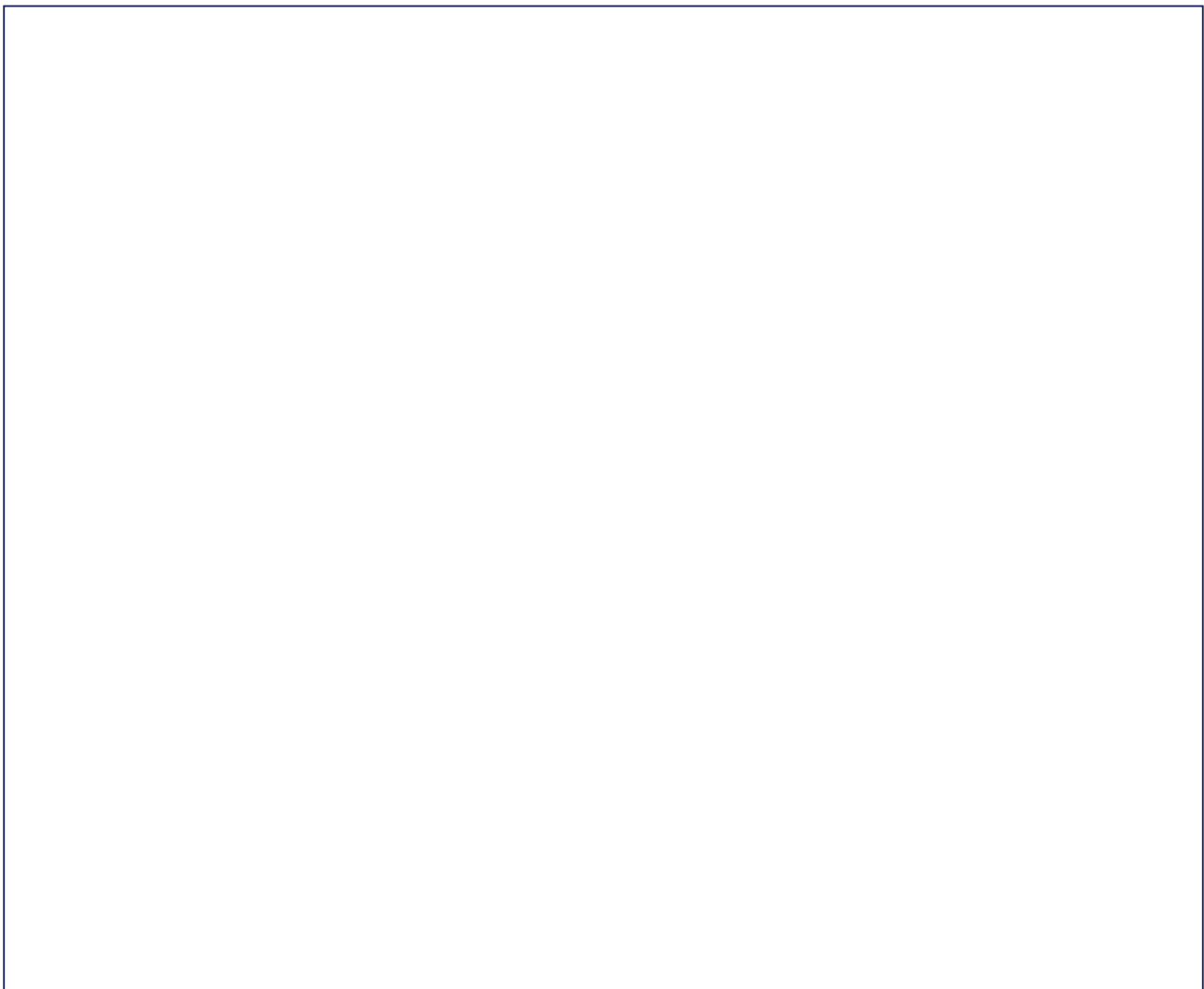


Exploring the Maya Civilisation with Ellie

Learning objective: To identify and illustrate key features of Maya city-states and their architectural achievements.

Ellie the elephant has been reading all about the ancient Maya. Use your knowledge of Maya history to complete the drawing of a city-state scene. Use the labels provided to identify the important structures.

Draw: Draw a vibrant scene of a Maya city-state. In the centre, draw a large, impressive stone step pyramid with a temple at the very top. To the side, draw a long, narrow I-shaped stone court for the ball game. Surround the city buildings with thick jungle trees, vines, and tropical plants. Add small details like stone carvings on the walls and a wide, open plaza area between the buildings. Use bright colours to show the stone and the lush green forest.



Label words: Step Pyramid · Ball Court · Temple · Jungle · Plaza · Obsidian Tools

Steps:

1. Why were the step pyramids built so tall? Think about what the Maya might have been trying to reach.
2. Label the tall stone building in your drawing as the 'Step Pyramid'. What was the main material used to build it?
3. The Maya lived in dense rainforests. List two items you have included in your drawing to show the environment surrounding the city.

4. The Maya were expert astronomers. Where might they have looked to study the stars from their city?
5. Describe one activity that might be taking place in the large open plaza area.