

Year 4 History Assessment: The Maya Civilisation

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Maya civilisation, including their society, beliefs, and daily life.

Read each question carefully before writing your answer. Ensure you use your best handwriting and full sentences where requested. This test is out of 25 marks.

Ellie the elephant has been studying the ancient Maya people who lived long ago in the dense rainforests of Central America. They built magnificent stone cities with towering pyramids and were experts at studying the stars. The Maya people grew crops like maize and were famous for creating a special drink from cacao beans. They also developed a complex way of writing using pictures called hieroglyphs.

Word bank: Chichen Itza · Hieroglyphs · Maize · Rainforest · Temples · Astronomy · Chocolate

1. Identify two types of food or drink that were important to the Maya people. (2 marks)

2. Where were most Maya cities located? Describe the environment. (2 marks)

3. What was the name of the system of writing used by the Maya, and how did it differ from the letters we use today? (3 marks)

4. Explain why the Maya were interested in astronomy (the study of stars and planets). (3 marks)

5. Max the monkey wants to know why the Maya built such tall stone temples. Based on your learning, why do you think these structures were so important to their society? (3 marks)

6. Compare Maya society to life in Britain today. Identify one major similarity or difference in how people lived or communicated. (4 marks)

7. Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just discovered a new Maya city hidden in the jungle. Write a short report (5 sentences) describing what you see, including the buildings and the environment. (8 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch of a Maya pyramid temple surrounded by the trees of the rainforest.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Imagine the Maya had to trade their goods. If a bag of cacao beans cost £2, how many bags could a farmer buy if they had saved £10?