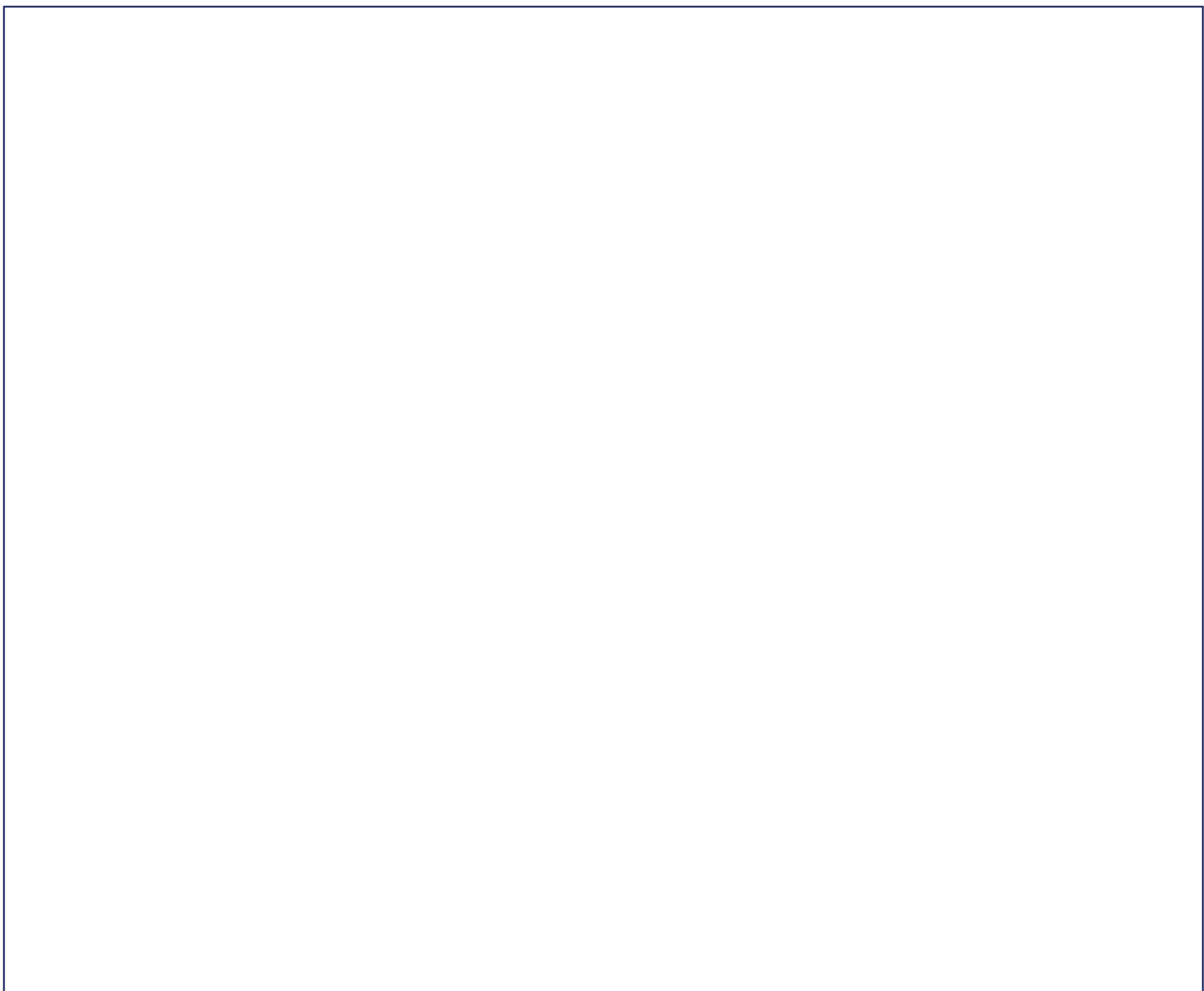


Ellie's Maya Civilisation Discovery

Learning objective: To understand the layout and features of a Maya city-state and identify key architectural and agricultural elements.

Follow the drawing prompt below to create a detailed map of a Maya city. Use your labels from the word bank to identify the important structures in your scene.

Draw: Draw a panoramic view of a Maya city-state. In the centre, include a large, stepped pyramid with a temple at the top. Surround the pyramid with a wide, open plaza where people are gathering. To the side, draw a long, narrow stone ball court. On the edges of your paper, draw lush, dense rainforest trees and hills showing 'terraced farming' steps cut into the slopes. Use a warm colour palette for the limestone buildings to contrast with the deep greens of the jungle.



Label words: Step pyramid · Plaza · Terraced farming · Rainforest · Ball court · Limestone · Causeway

Steps:

1. Explain why the Maya people chose to build their cities in the middle of the rainforest. Consider the resources they might have needed.
2. Label the most important religious building in your drawing. Why do you think this building was constructed so tall?

3. Compare and contrast a Maya plaza with a modern-day town square. How are they similar or different?
4. Justify your answer: If you were a Maya city planner, would you prioritise building more homes or more temples? Why?
5. What might happen if the Maya people had not developed advanced farming techniques like terracing?
6. Look at your drawing. Describe the materials used to build these structures. Why was limestone a significant resource for the Maya?