

Ellie's Maya Civilisation Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify and describe key features of the ancient Maya civilisation including their achievements, daily life, and beliefs.

Ellie the elephant has been reading all about the ancient Maya people! Use your history books or class notes to help you fill in this fact-file. Make sure you use clear, descriptive sentences and check your historical dates.

Word bank: Chichen Itza · hieroglyphs · maize · temples · astronomy · civilisation · rainforest · Yucatan

1. Where and when did the Maya civilisation live? Describe the environment they built their cities in. (3 marks)

2. What were the most important crops grown by the Maya, and how did they farm them? (2 marks)

3. Explain how the Maya used their system of writing and why it was important for their history. (3 marks)

4. Describe the purpose of the large stone temples found in Maya cities. (2 marks)

5. Why was the study of astronomy and the calendar so important to the Maya way of life? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Maya architect. On a separate piece of paper, draw a design for a new city pyramid. Label the materials you would use and explain one special feature you have included.