

Exploring the Maya Civilisation with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To structure a historical report about the achievements and daily life of the ancient Maya civilisation.

Use this writing frame to organise your research. Read the passage below, then use the prompts to help you write your report. Remember to use formal historical language and check your spelling.

Deep in the rainforests of Central America, the ancient Maya built a powerful and mysterious civilisation that flourished for hundreds of years.

Word bank: Furthermore · In addition to · Consequently · Historically · Remarkably · For example · However · Ancient · Civilisation · Achievements

1. Introduction: Where and when did the Maya live? Start by writing: The Maya civilisation was located in... (2 marks)

2. Daily Life: What was life like for a farmer or a city dweller? Start by writing: Daily life for the Maya involved... (3 marks)

3. Achievements: What did the Maya invent or discover? Start by writing: The Maya were incredibly talented, especially when it came to... (3 marks)

4. Religion and Beliefs: Why were the temples so important? Start by writing: Religious life was at the heart of Maya society because... (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Why do we still study the Maya today? Start by writing: We study the Maya today because their legacy... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Ellie the Elephant wants to know more! Write a short paragraph explaining how the Maya used their knowledge of maths or astronomy to build their giant stone pyramids.