

Maya Civilisation: Explorer's Fact-File

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

Use your history textbooks or approved research materials to complete this fact-file. Ellie the elephant reminds us that history is all about uncovering the stories of the past! Be sure to use precise vocabulary and provide evidence to support your findings.

Word bank: hieroglyphics · astronomy · temples · rainforest · maize · civilisation · archaeologist · irrigation

1. Geographical Location: Where did the Maya civilisation live, and what was the climate like in this region? (2 marks)

2. Daily Life and Diet: Describe what the Maya people ate and how they farmed to sustain their large cities. (3 marks)

3. Achievements in Mathematics and Science: Explain why the Maya are considered advanced for their time regarding their calendar or number system. (3 marks)

4. Beliefs and Architecture: Describe the purpose of the great stone temples found in Maya cities. (2 marks)

5. Compare and Contrast: How does the Maya method of recording information (hieroglyphics) differ from the way we record information today? (4 marks)

6. Justify your answer: Why do you think the Maya civilisation was able to build such large cities in the middle of a dense rainforest? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just discovered a hidden Maya city. Write a formal report explaining what you have found, why it is significant, and what might happen if we do not preserve these historical sites for the future.