

Ellie's Ancient Maya Expedition

Learning objective: To understand the key features of the Maya civilisation, including their achievements in astronomy, writing, and daily life.

Join Ellie the elephant on her journey back in time! Read the questions carefully and select the best answer to test your knowledge of the fascinating Maya people.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.Maize, 5.B, 6.True, 7.A, 8.C, 9.False, 10.True. The Maya were advanced in maths, astronomy, and architecture, building iconic pyramids and developing a complex writing system.

Word bank: Hieroglyphics · Chichen Itza · Maize · Observatory · Cacao · Astronomy · Step pyramid

1. 1. What was the primary staple crop grown by the Maya? A) Rice B) Wheat C) Maize D) Potatoes (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: The Maya developed a complex system of writing using symbols known as hieroglyphics. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: The Maya civilisation was located in Ancient Egypt. (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the name of the famous type of large stone structure built by the Maya for religious ceremonies? (1 mark)

5. 5. Which of these was a highly valued trade item used to make a chocolate-based drink? A) Gold B) Cacao beans C) Salt D) Silk (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: The Maya were highly skilled at observing the stars and planets to create accurate calendars. (1 mark)

7. 7. Which city is famous for its large stone pyramid called 'El Castillo'? A) Chichen Itza B) London C) Rome D) Tikal (1 mark)

8. 8. What did the Maya use to track time? A) Digital clocks B) Hourglasses C) Complex calendar systems D) Sundials only (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: The Maya used iron for all their tools and weapons. (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: The Maya civilisation existed long before the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a detailed illustration of a Maya step pyramid surrounded by a tropical rainforest, including a stone carving of a jaguar.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenges: 1. Explain why the development of a complex writing system was vital for the Maya to record their history. 2. Compare and contrast Maya city-states with modern towns; what are the similarities and differences? 3. Justify why the Maya's understanding of astronomy would have been important for their agricultural success. 4. What might happen if the Maya had not discovered how to store and trade cacao? 5. Why do historians consider the Maya to be one of the most advanced civilisations of their time? 6. Design a new Maya-inspired symbol that represents a modern-day invention.