

History  
The Maya  
Book: Exploring the Maya Empire  
Pages 4-13

Students: Fill in the answers and return for assessment

Everything here is based on our Curriculum Visions book Exploring the Maya Empire.

In this segment, we are going to be introduced to the Maya and learn about where they came from and how they lived.

You will need to go to pages 4-7 of the book.

Part 1

Look on a map of the world and find the area where the Maya lived. Trace how the Maya got there.

Answer ...

No written answer needed. You may like to do this as a whole class activity.

Read the text on pages 6-7. Make a list of some of the things the Maya invented.

Answer ...

Picture writing, irrigation, astronomy, domestication of crops – answers may also include cities, chocolate, books, pyramids.

Now turn to pages 8-11

Part 2

How were Mayan books different from the books we have today?

Answer ...

Answers could include: Mayan books were made on long, folded strips of paper, today books are made of many sheets of paper; Mayan books were painted, modern books are printed; Mayan paper was made by pounding the bark of fig trees, modern paper is made from wood pulp (also, today we often read using a computer, phone, e-reader, etc); Mayan books (at least the ones we have left) were written about only a few topics. You may like to have the students make a chart for the differences, or put a chart on the board and do this as a whole class activity.

Using the pictures on pages 10-11, write the name of the day and month in Mayan. You can use either the name and symbol, or you might like to draw the hieroglyphics. Can you also write the date of your birthday in Mayan?

Answer ...

Answers will vary.

Now turn to pages 12-13 of the book.

### Part 3

What is slash and burn farming? What was one problem with it? How did this affect the Maya?

Answer ...

When trees are cut down and left to dry, then burned.

The ash (fertiliser) produced is quickly used up so the land quickly becomes poor.

The Maya ran out of land to farm.

That is the end of this worksheet, and you can now turn to another one. Also, find out if your teacher has left you any other worksheets or special instructions on your school website.

If you interested in this topic continue to browse the book and

watch our amazing videos. They start right on the book cover.

Or you may want to see related books. If so just go to the top of the screen, select history, and from the page that opens choose Exploring the Maya Empire.