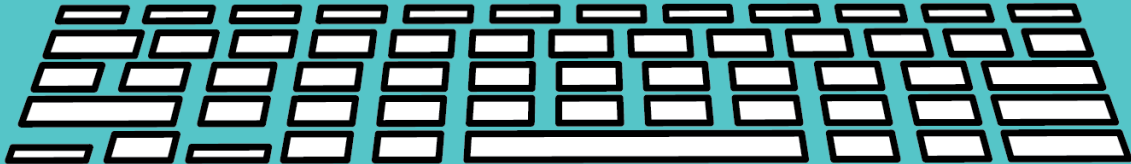
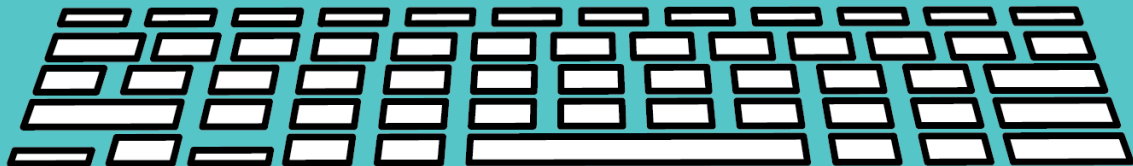




Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. What settlement was formed in 600 BC?	
2. How many glyphs did their writing system consist of?	
3. Which Mayan calendar had 365 days?	
4. What year did the Mayan Long Count calendar end?	
5. What is another word for yellow corn?	
6. Who was the god of fire?	
7. What was the last surviving Mayan city called?	
8. What year did the Spanish conquer the last Mayan city?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. What settlement was founded in 1000 BC?		9. The highest social class were ____ and priests.	
2. How many glyphs did their writing system consist of?		10. Mothers tried to flatten their babies ____.	
3. Which Mayan calendar has 365 days?		11. Every city-state was ruled by a ____.	
4. What year did the Mayan Long Count calendar end?		12. Mayan pyramids had a ____ top.	
5. What is another word for yellow corn?		13. A ____ is an accordion-like book with several sheets in it.	
6. Who was the god of fire?		14. ____ Mayan Civilization began in ____ BC.	
7. What was the last surviving Mayan city called?		15. Some glyphs were picture while others represented a ____.	
8. What year did the Spanish conquer the last Mayan city?		16. They believed the stars, sun and moon were ____.	



MAYA EMPIRE

The Maya civilization began in 1800 BC. Although their civilizations were similar, the Maya became thousands of years before the Aztec. Some Mayans still live on the Yucatan Peninsula today.

The Maya began to develop as a Mesoamerican civilization. The Maya civilization developed in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico and Central America.

The Maya were one of the Mesoamerican civilizations known for their architecture, hieroglyphs, and art. They believed the stars, sun and moon were gods. They used hieroglyphs to write in their temples.

The Maya civilization consisted of a large number of city-states. Each city-state had its own government and every city-state had a king. The king was given the right to rule by the gods.

At the peak of the Maya civilization, there were hundreds of Maya cities. Although southern city-states collapsed, Maya cities in the northern Yucatan Peninsula continued to thrive for several hundred years.

In 600 BC, the settlement at Tikal was formed and was a major city in the Maya civilization.

The king of the Maya cities and his nobles lived a simple life. For entertainment, and labor were provided by the commoners or slaves. Commoners lived in mud huts on their farms outside of the city. Mayans were skilled artists, weavers and potters. They created art to honor their leaders and gods. They also created musical instruments such as the horns and drums. The Maya created trade routes through jungles and swamps.

Their hieroglyphics writing system consisted of 800 glyphs. Some glyphs were a picture while others represented a sound. They carved the glyphs into stone and codices. A codex was an accordion-like book with several folds in it. The pages were made of fig bark and jaguar skins. The Spanish missionaries burned all but four of their codices. Giant stone columns were carved with stories of conquest, rulers, and gods.

Mayan priests performed rituals and human sacrifice to keep the gods happy. Jobs of the priests included predicting the future, creating miracles, avoiding famine, drought, plagues, and earthquakes.

The original Mayans used one language. Over time, many more were

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developed. Today, there are approximately 70 Maya languages still used.

The Mayans had social classes. The highest social class were nobles and priests. The middle class consisted of warriors, craftsmen, and traders. The lowest class included farmers, workers and slaves.

The Mayans believed that a cross-eyed baby had traits of nobility. Mothers tried to flatten their babies' foreheads with boards. A flat forehead was another feature of nobility. They also used putty to shape their nose like a beak.

The Mayans had two calendars. The Haab calendar had 365 days. The Long Count Calendar had 2,880,000 days and ended in 2012. The Maya calendar is one of the most accurate in history. The calendar, stars, moon and sun were important to the Maya religion. Some calendar days were considered lucky or unlucky.

Like the Aztec, Mayans grew maize or yellow corn. They also lived off of avocados, pineapples, tomatoes, beans, chili peppers and papayas.

The Maya believed in numerous gods of nature. Itzamna was the god of who they believed created the Earth. His name means "lizard house". Bolon was the god of wind and storms. The Maya believed he would flood their land if the Maya angered the gods. His name means "one leg". The Hero Twins in Maya mythology were Hunahpu and Xbalanque.

The Maya believed in an afterlife with travel through a dark underworld. In the underworld, mean gods could torment the people. The only people who started their afterlife in heaven were the people who were sacrificed to the gods.

Religious ceremonies and festivals were based on the position of the stars and their calendar. The ceremonies occurred at the top of their pyramid. The pyramids had a flat top. The El Castillo pyramid was a gift to the god Itzamna. It has 91 steps plus a final step on top to equal 92 steps each day of the year. Around 1,200 people lived at the Chichen Itza site each year.

The last surviving Maya city was called Mayasal. In 1696, the Spanish conquered the Maya city. The Spanish slowly captured the Indian cities, one by one.

Today, archaeologists learn about the Maya through their writings. Their books would often describe religious and historical events. The books which still exist today are the Madrid, the Paris, and Dresden Codex.

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