THE MARVELLOUS MAYA

Cities, calendars and corn in the rainforest



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TODAY WE WILL...

WE ARE LEARNING TO

Name Maya crops and why farming mattered

Explain how extra food built cities

Show Maya land and time near AD 900

SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

- ✓ I can name two Maya foods
- ✓ I can say how farming built cities
- ✓ I can show where and when Maya lived

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WHEN DID THE MAYA LIVE?

AROUND 2000 BC

Maya way of life begins

AROUND 750 BC

First Maya cities appear

AD 420 TO 900

Maya strongest, cities grow big

AFTER 900

Cities get smaller, people stay on

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FROM SEEDS TO CITIES

Grew maize for yellow grains to eat

↓

Extra food fed more families together

↓

More people built temples for worship

↓

Big cities needed writing and calendars

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WHAT WOULD YOU GROW?

IF YOUR FAMILY MUST GROW FOOD ALL YEAR, WHICH TWO WOULD YOU PICK?

A Maize for lots of food

B Beans for different food

C Squash that stores well

Vote with your hands, then explain why.

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LET'S VISIT THE MAYA



▶ 0:00 – 1:31

- Spot where the Maya lived
- Spot what farmers grew to eat
- Spot temples and cities they built

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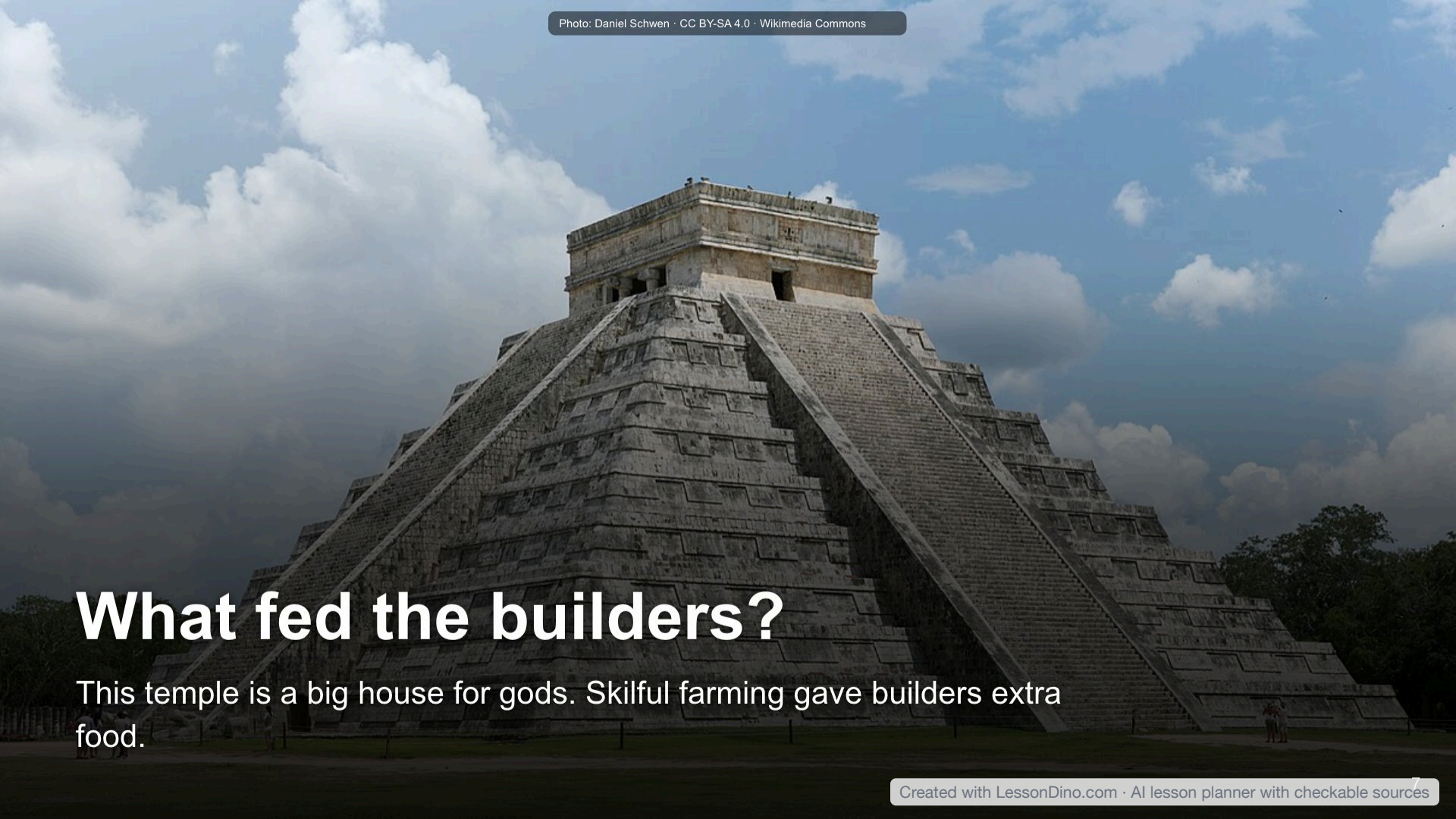

What fed the builders?

This temple is a big house for gods. Skilful farming gave builders extra food.

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FOOD, TRADE AND CITIES



▶ 0:00 – 3:57

- See how extra food feeds cities
- See how people swap food

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YOUR TASK

Trade tokens for crop cards. Fill a basket to feed a family.

1. Swap tokens for maize, beans or squash
2. Agree your final two crops as a group
3. Say: This helped Maya because...

12 min

Groups of 4

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BIG IDEA

Clever farming fed millions and built rainforest cities.



Photo: JillWellington · Pixabay

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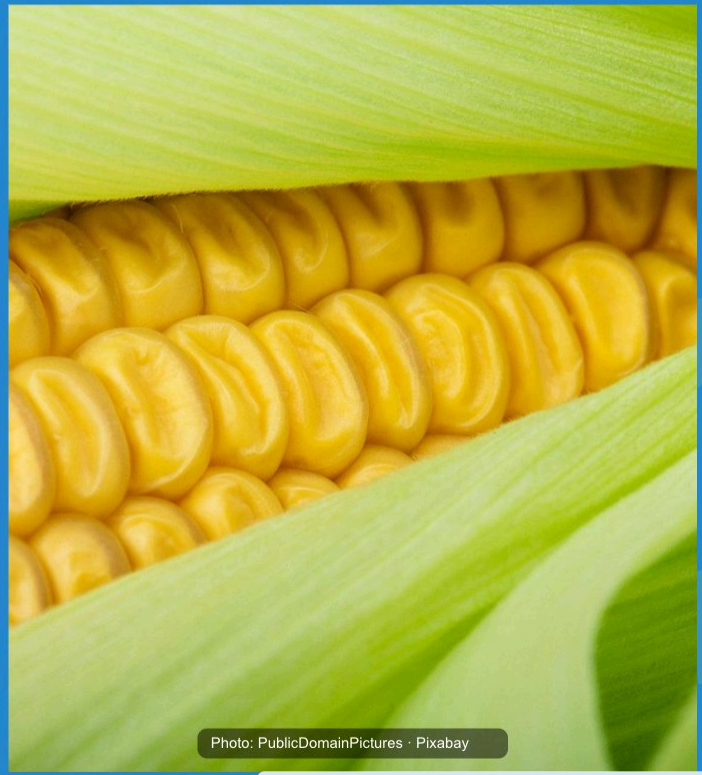
WHAT COULD THIS BE?

Bumpy, yellow and full of grains – what food is this?



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EXIT TICKET

1

Name two foods Maya farmers grew.

2

How did extra food help build cities?

3

One question I still have...

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