Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Maya Civilisation

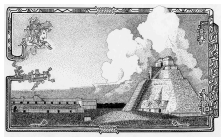
A clever rainforest society around AD 900

About 45 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

Who were the Maya?

The ancient **Maya** lived in the **rainforests** of Central America. They were a clever and deeply religious people who valued learning.

- Lived in parts of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and **El Salvador**.
- Began around 2000 BC and were strongest from AD 420 to **AD 900**.
- Built **temples**, palaces and large cities with stone monuments.
- Used picture writing, three number symbols and three **calendars**.



Task A

/3

Imagine these are map symbols. Write what each one means.

A



_____

B



_____

C

Draw it

_____

Design your own symbol for a Maya market

What does it mean, and why did you draw it like that?

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Maya Skills

Label what the clever Maya made and grew.

Key words

civilisation: a large organised society with its own culture

maize: a cereal grain, also called corn

temple: a tall building for worshipping gods

calendar: a chart that tracks days and years

hieroglyph: a picture sign used in writing

pottery: bowls, cups and jars made from baked clay

Task B

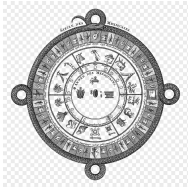
/3

Label each picture using the word bank. Use the hints to help.

calendar | maize | pottery



Draw it



main crop, also called corn

pots made from clay

chart to track time from stars

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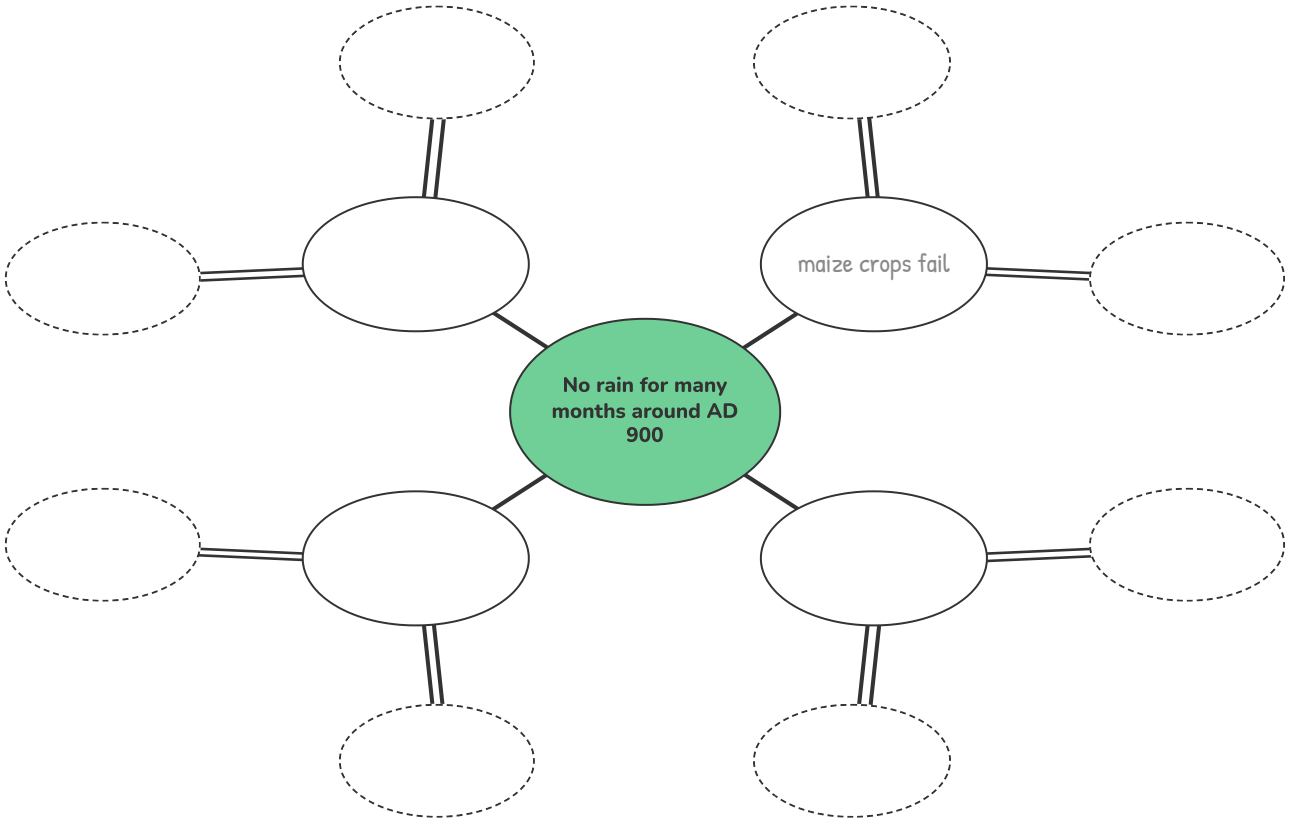
Vanishing Cities

Think what happened when the rain stopped.

Task C

Follow the knock-on effects of no rain. Add your own ideas.



Single lines lead to direct effects; double lines lead to knock-on effects.

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Great Maya Life

Judge life in a Maya city.

Task D

Put on your **thinking hats** to judge Maya city life.

> living in a Maya city around AD 900

	Red hat: feelings	Yellow hat: good points	Black hat: bad points	Green hat: ideas to improve
food and farming				
temples and gods				

Task E

Show what you **remember best** from the lesson.

> Draw a Maya temple in the rainforest and write two short sentences about it. Start with: My temple has...

Draw here

Write here

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Maya Check

Check what you know about the Maya.

Task F

/4

Circle the correct word in each sentence.

1. The Maya lived in (**Europe** / **Central America**) around AD 900.
2. Maya farmers grew (**maize** / **wheat**) as their main crop.
3. Maya priests studied the (**televisions** / **stars**) to make calendars.
4. The Maya used (**three** / **twenty-six**) symbols to write numbers.

Task G

/3

Swap each today item for its Maya match. Draw it in the empty box.

	Today		Maya times
1	Draw it — tractor in field	- - - →	
2	 paper wall calendar	- - - →	
3	Draw it — tin of sweetcorn	- - - →	

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can say where and when the Maya lived.	☹	😐	☺
I can describe two Maya achievements.	☹	😐	☺
I can explain what drought did to Maya cities.	☹	😐	☺

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Answer sheet: Maya Civilisation

Task A

A: maize farm
B: place to study stars
C: pottery workshop

Task B

1. maize
2. pottery
3. calendar

Task C

Answers will vary, e.g. maize crops fail

Task D

Answers will vary.

Task E

Answers will vary.

Task F

1. Central America
2. maize
3. stars
4. three

Task G

1. tractor in field → farmers with hand tools
2. paper wall calendar → star calendar
3. tin of sweetcorn → fresh maize

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