

JUNIOR IV – SOCIAL STUDIES

TOPIC: Maya civilization



A. Complete the text with the words below.

thousands – Empire – centers – civilization – pyramids

Yucatan – settlement - Aztecs – family

The Maya were an ancient _____ located in the _____ Peninsula of Mexico and parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize and Honduras. People sometimes confuse them with the _____, another Central American society, but the Maya came thousands of years before. Their first _____ are almost 4,000 years old and, unlike the Aztecs, the Maya weren't part of a centrally controlled _____. Their civilization was more of a loose collection of city-states each with its own ruling _____. At the peak of the civilization, between the 3rd and 10th centuries ad, Maya city states or polities were major urban _____, large polities like Cappin Tikal Palenque and Calakmul were dominated by massive _____ and huge palaces for the ruling families.

B. Match the following halves.

Each city-state controlled	a complete system of writing.
Cities were	the surrounding farmlands and smaller towns.
The cities didn't speak the	Egyptian hieroglyphs.
The Maya were the only Native society with	comes from writing carved into stone and wood.
Maya script looks like	same language.
Most of what we know about their culture	are stone columns called steli.
Some of the most spectacular Mayan artifacts	constantly at war with each other.

C. Answer the following questions.

1. What can you tell about their religion?

2. How many numbers/digits did they have?

3. How did the Maya civilization collapse?
