

BEFORE READING – Look at the pictures and label them.



A bead

Guatemala

Mexico

A Maya priest

READING – Read the text and answer.

GROWING UP IN THE ANCIENT MAYA CULTURE



The Maya people lived in a large area of southern Mexico and Guatemala. They lived in enormous cities and created extraordinary art and **architecture**. You can visit the **ruins** of some ancient Maya cities, such as Chichén Itzá in Mexico.

The father was the head of the family. Maya men worked hard to support their families, and they paid **taxes** to the **government**. Women in Maya society cooked, made cloth and clothing, and took care of children.

When a boy was about five years old, the Maya tied a small white bead to the top of his head. When a girl was about five, the Maya tied a red shell around her waist. When boys and girls were twelve or thirteen years old, the village had a big ceremony that marked the end of childhood. During the ceremony, a priest cut the beads from the boys' heads. Mothers removed the red shells from the girls' waists. After the ceremony, boys and girls could get married. Young men painted themselves black until they were married.



▲ The Maya city of Chichén Itzá became a center for buying and selling goods.

All women did some weaving and spinning. They made things for their families and to sell. ▼



Now, answer the questions.

a- When did the Maya people live?

b- Where did the Maya people live?

They lived in Mexico and Guatemala.

They lived in the USA.

They lived in Argentina and Chile.

c- What did men do?

d- What did women do?

e- Now match the information.

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| Boys | ☐ | ☐ | cut the beads from the boys' heads. |
| Girls | ☐ | ☐ | children could get married. |
| Childhood ended when | ☐ | ☐ | were tied a small white bead to the top of their heads. |
| Mothers | ☐ | ☐ | they were twelve or thirteen years old. |
| The priest | ☐ | ☐ | were tied a red shell around their waists. |
| After the ceremony | ☐ | ☐ | removed the red shell from the girl's waists. |