The Maya View of the World

Much of the information that we have about the Maya civilization was found in Maya ruins. The temples and pyramids that were built by ancient Maya kings are an important resource for scientists. By using information discovered in Mexican and Central American jungles, archaeologists have learned a great deal about Maya history and everyday life. They have discovered many interesting aspects of Maya culture which can tell us more about them.

The Maya people had an unusual and advanced numbering system. At the time, most of the world had no concept of the number zero. The Maya, however, were using a flat, round shape as a symbol to represent this amount. Their counting system had only three symbols: a dot, which represented one, a bar for five, and the round shape for zero. Certain numbers were considered extremely important by the Maya. For example, 20 was special because it equaled the number of fingers and toes that could be used for counting. The number 52 represented the number of years in a Maya century.

The Maya calendar offers another surprising look at how they organised information differently from other cultures. They didn’t use a chart with rows of numbers representing days and months. They used several different circular calendars at the same time. One calendar contained 13 months consisting of 20 days each for a total of 260 days. This calendar was used for religious purposes and for planting their fields. Another calendar had 365 days and was based on the movement of the planets. When the Maya referred to both calendars, they matched their 20-day months with the 365 days in the planetary calendar. When they did this, the days that were left over at the end of the year were considered very unlucky.

1. The Maya kings:
   a) used to live in Central American jungles
   b) ruined many temples and pyramids
   c) were smart archaeologists
   d) have discovered a lot about their own culture

2. In the Mayan culture the number zero:
   a) did not exist
   b) looked similar in shape to today’s zero
   c) was represented by a dot
   d) had three different shapes

3. The Maya:
   a) used body parts for counting
   b) were very special because they had 20 toes
   c) had 52 different ways to count the years
   d) did not find the numbering system important

4. The Maya:
   a) were surprised when they discovered calendar
   b) had no system to represent days and months
   c) had calendar charts with numbers in rows
   d) were quite original in representing days and months

5. Different calendars in the Mayan culture:
   a) represented different planets
   b) were used in different seasons
   c) were used for different purposes
   d) were a symbol of bad luck
II READ THE TEXT FIRST. THEN WRITE THE CORRECT FORM OF THE WORD IN BRACKETS IN THE SAME LINE. WRITE ONLY ONE WORD ON EACH LINE. DO NOT WRITE ANY NUMBERS. (10 x 1 point = 10 points)

Example: Each orangutan is different in the way it learns. (DIFFER)

Although the Classic Period is said to be the time of their greatest development, the Maya may have been a (1) ____________________________________________ culture as early as the so-called Preclassic (SUCCESS) Period. Being especially (2) ____________________________________________ in the pyramids under the thick (INTEREST)

IV READ THE TEXT BELOW AND THINK OF THE WORD WHICH BEST FITS EACH GAP. USE ONLY ONE WORD IN EACH GAP. FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE (0). (15 x 1 point = 15 points)

Hansen hopes that the tombs of the kings will show (0) _______________________________ they were. He’s especially (1) _______________________________ to find out more about (2) ____________________________________________ personality. Most discoveries focus on (3) ____________________________________________ power and influence of the kings. That’s why Hansen (4) ____________________________________________ : “But unfortunately, there’s not a lot (5) ____________________________________________ knowledge about the kings (6) ____________________________________________ people.” He feels that the work (7) ____________________________________________ help scientists get to know the kings more personally. What were they like and how (9) ____________________________________________ they live? A small pyramid of El Mirador (10) ____________________________________________ particularly interesting to Hansen. (11) ____________________________________________ is a large stone in its structure (12) ____________________________________________ a symbol of an important Maya king (14) ____________________________________________ ruled in the Preclassic period. “(15) ____________________________________________ is possible that this is his tomb,” he adds excitedly.

V READ THE TEXT FIRST. THEN FILL IN THE APPROPRIATE FORM / TENSE OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS IN THE ACTIVE OR PASSIVE VOICE. PAY ATTENTION TO THE WORD ORDER. DO NOT ADD ANY OTHER WORDS. (22 x 2 points = 44 points)

Example: I have already seen this film before, (already / see)

Before Hansen started exploring the Danta pyramid, he (1) ____________________________________________ in a mapping expert and the newest technology in underground imaging systems. If you ask yourself: “How (2) ____________________________________________ (this equipment / work)?”, the answer is: by (3) ____________________________________________ (send) electrical signals through the ground. Generally, these signals (4) ____________________________________________ whether the ground is solid or if there’s an opening under it. The system then (5) ____________________________________________ (create) an image, or map, of what is under the soil. So, Hansen couldn’t wait (6) ____________________________________________ (get) started!

Later on, after three hours of (7) ____________________________________________ the ground, the mapping expert (8) ____________________________________________ a chamber about 11 metres under the earth, eight metres long by two metres wide. Just the right size for a king’s tomb. Delighted, Hansen asked himself: “(9) ____________________________________________ (I / just) discover that the ‘Great Fiery Jaguar Paw’ really existed so many years ago?” A few minutes later, they (10) ____________________________________________ to pull away the last stones in front of the place where the opening was supposed (11) ____________________________________________ begin! Unfortunately, there was nothing behind the wall when they (12) ____________________________________________ (break) through. Hansen (13) ____________________________________________ (not feel) any better after this unexpected result. But he (14) ____________________________________________ (come) to a lighter conclusion about the kings who were so difficult (16) ____________________________________________ : “They may (17) ____________________________________________ (run) away from me, but I (18) ____________________________________________ (find) them one day, I
promise. After all, I (19) ___________ (spend) all these years searching for them, so what's 20 years more?"

What (20) _________ (this / mean) for today's scientists? That the mystery of the early Maya kings is just a story? Hansen (21) ___________ (not think) so. He is preparing to dig at another pyramid next year. Maybe he will finally find what he (22) ___________ (look) for in the lost temples of the Maya.

VI COMPLETE THE SECOND SENTENCE SO AS TO GET THE SAME MEANING AS IN THE FIRST SENTENCE.

(5x1 point = 5 points)

Example: You can borrow it, but you must give it back next week.

You can borrow it as long as you give it back next week.

1. Archaeologist's job is to study buildings, objects, and culture of ancient people.
   Archaeologist is a _________ job to study buildings, objects, and culture of ancient people.

2. Jungle is a tropical forest where trees and plants grow close together.
   Jungle is a tropical forest _________ trees and plants grow close together.

3. Hansen hopes that he will find the answers under the pyramids.
   Hansen hopes _________ the answers under the pyramids.

4. How did they build a structure of the same complexity as the Great Pyramids of Egypt?
   How did they build a structure that is as _________ the Great Pyramids of Egypt?

5. Perhaps then he will finally see the tomb of an early Maya king.
   Perhaps then he will achieve his goal of _________ the tomb of an early Maya king.

VII WRITE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES IN THE PASSIVE VOICE:

(4x2 points = 8 points)

Example: They will invite you to give a speech.

You will be invited to give a speech.

1. We know the remains of very old buildings as ruins.

2. They made this small, simple building of wood.

3. The experts didn't discover the king's tomb.

4. Hansen may make a major scientific discovery very soon.

VIII WRITE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING REPORTED SPEECH:

(4x2 points = 8 points)

Example: I wish you good luck with your test, children!

The author of the test wishes the children good luck with their test.

1. Did they find anything interesting in that chamber?
   I wonder

2. Why is this building so interesting to you?
   The student asks the experts

3. Don't climb any further if you want to stay in one piece.
   The expert warns the young man

4. Mr Hansen, join me here and enjoy the view!
   The student