

*The Maya View of the World*

Much of the information that we have about the Maya civilisation 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 equalled 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



**READ THE TEXT. THEN CIRCLE THE LETTER (a, b, c or d) IN FRONT OF THE ANSWER WHICH YOU THINK BEST FITS EACH SPACE. (20 x 1 point = 20 points)**

This story is set in Guatemala, a country in Central America. It (1) \_\_\_\_\_ place in a place where there was a city (2) \_\_\_\_\_ El Mirador long ago.

Archaeologists have been researching the Maya civilisation for (3) \_\_\_\_\_ long time. Now, in (4) \_\_\_\_\_ middle of Guatemala, archaeologists are (5) \_\_\_\_\_ new evidence about the ancient Maya. They're discovering a Maya world (6) \_\_\_\_\_ may have existed long before scientists (7) \_\_\_\_\_ it did. The secrets of this new discovery may (8) \_\_\_\_\_ under the leaves and earth of the Guatemalan jungle. They could be in or near (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the biggest pyramids ever built: the great pyramid of Danta. Archaeologist Richard Hansen (10) \_\_\_\_\_ travelled to the site of the pyramid. He (11) \_\_\_\_\_ that the area around it, the Mirador, may hold important (12) \_\_\_\_\_. He thinks that they could (13) \_\_\_\_\_ the secrets of the early Maya. (14) \_\_\_\_\_ the Classic Period (from 250 to 900 ad), the ancient Maya were among the greatest groups of people (15) \_\_\_\_\_ the world. They built cities with thousands of buildings (16) \_\_\_\_\_ pyramids for kings and huts for poorer people. They also used (17) \_\_\_\_\_ pyramids as temples where Maya people went to show respect to (18) \_\_\_\_\_ gods. After death, the Maya kings (19) \_\_\_\_\_ in the tombs within pyramids. Archaeologists are now discovering a Maya civilisation that (20) \_\_\_\_\_ 1000 years before the Classic Period.



- |                    |                      |                |                 |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. a) has          | b) makes             | c) takes       | d) gives        |
| 2. a) calls        | b) called            | c) call        | d) calling      |
| 3. a) /            | b) the               | c) a           | d) an           |
| 4. a) /            | b) the               | c) a           | d) an           |
| 5. a) finding      | b) found             | c) founding    | d) founded      |
| 6. a) who          | b) where             | c) that        | d) when         |
| 7. a) thinking     | b) thinks            | c) taught      | d) thought      |
| 8. a) laying       | b) lies              | c) lie         | d) lying        |
| 9. a) one of       | b) one from          | c) that of     | d) that from    |
| 10. a) is          | b) was               | c) has         | d) had been     |
| 11. a) expects     | b) suspects          | c) expecting   | d) accept       |
| 12. a) defines     | b) knows             | c) crews       | d) clues        |
| 13. a) unlock      | b) unlocking         | c) to unlock   | d) unlocked     |
| 14. a) Behind      | b) Inside            | c) Above       | d) During       |
| 15. a) in          | b) on                | c) at          | d) to           |
| 16. a) include     | b) including         | c) included    | d) includes     |
| 17. a) them        | b) such a            | c) that        | d) these        |
| 18. a) it's        | b) their             | c) there's     | d) theirs       |
| 19. a) placed them | b) placed themselves | c) were placed | d) were placing |
| 20. a) existed     | b) existing          | c) has existed | d) exist        |

**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)

jungles of Guatemala, Hansen has worked for (3) \_\_\_\_\_ than 20 years (MANY) at the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ city of El Mirador. There are many questions to be (LOSE) answered. Hansen hopes to find the answers by (5) \_\_\_\_\_ under the (DIG) pyramids; he (6) \_\_\_\_\_ that the tombs of the ancient kings of the (BELIEF) early Maya are down there. Danta is the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ pyramid at the site. (LARGE) As Hansen climbs it he says: "This is the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ level of the great (THREE) pyramid of Danta. It continues for (9) \_\_\_\_\_ half a mile on platforms (NEAR) below us here." Hansen dreams of finding the kings from the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (BEGIN) of the Maya civilisation.

**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) who they were. He's especially excited (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 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) \_\_\_\_\_ archaeologists are doing in Mirador (8) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 big stone in its structure (12) \_\_\_\_\_ has a large jaguar paw on it. Hansen thinks that this could (13) \_\_\_\_\_ 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) \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) 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) \_\_\_\_\_ (show) 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) \_\_\_\_\_ (study) the ground, the mapping expert (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (find) 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) \_\_\_\_\_ (begin) to pull away the last stones in front of the place where the opening was supposed (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (be).

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) \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) fully disappointed, either. He managed (15) \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to a lighter conclusion about the kings who were so difficult (16) \_\_\_\_\_ (find): "They may keep (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 is 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 \_\_\_\_\_