

Aztecs, Incas & Mayans

The Mayans

The Mayan civilization was the oldest of the three largest civilizations in South and Central America. The empire lasted from about 300 A.D. to 900 A.D.

While Europeans were in the midst of the Dark Ages, Mayans never stopped learning. They tried out new farming methods. They rotated their crops so the soil would last longer. They only farmed crops on the same field once every three years or so. Turkey and ducks were tamed and kept on Mayan farms. That way, Mayans wouldn't have to worry about hunting or trapping food.

The Mayans also learned to make paper out of the bark of the fig tree. They had an advanced writing system. In their system, word-pictures stood for different syllables and ideas. Mayan writing did much more than just record dates and information. The writing told stories about life. The Mayans were also good mathematicians. They came up with the principle of "0" as a number. They also studied the stars and had very advanced calendars. The Mayan farming calendar was based on the movement of the sun and the stars. It had 365 days just like ours!

The Mayan civilization was very organized. Each city had a king and everyone had his position, from stonecutter to nobleman. You were born into your position in life. If your father was a stonecutter, you would cut stone, too. Nobles lived in beautiful houses. Their architecture was splendid. White limestone covered the walls and the floors. The inside walls were painted with murals.

Most Mayans were peasant farmers. They had to give more than half of their crops to the nobles and their king. They farmed corn and beans. Mayans also grew cacao, the basis of chocolate. The first hot chocolate actually came from the Mayans! They made their hot chocolate by mixing water, cacao (same as cocoa), and chili peppers. The Spanish people who later conquered the Yucatan peninsula learned of chocolate from the descendants of the Maya. The Spanish took chocolate back to Europe. In the Mayan empire, chocolate wasn't just a food or drink. Cacao beans were used as currency, or money. People would trade their goods for cacao beans!

No one knows exactly why the Mayan civilization came to an end. By the time Europeans arrived in the New World, the civilization had already crumbled. One idea is that the kings started fighting against each other until all of the peace and wealth ended. Another thought is that the Mayan farms could no longer make enough food for everyone. In a time of extreme drought,³ peasants might have refused to give the little food that they had to the nobles. Whatever happened, the Mayan empire was long past its peak by the time Europeans arrived. In its height, the empire was active and full of the spirit of learning that many countries in Europe experienced hundreds of years later.

1. The Mayans discovered or invented all of the following except:
 - a. chocolate.
 - b. rotating crops.
 - c. the wheel.
 - d. the use of the number "0".

2. This passage mostly describes the Mayans in terms of
 - a. their arts and festivals.
 - b. why their civilization ended.
 - c. how they assigned jobs.
 - d. what they did and accomplished.

3. Which of these Mayan accomplishments probably had the biggest impact on building their civilization?
 - a. farming and raising animals
 - b. making chocolate
 - c. writing with word-pictures
 - d. painting murals

4. Read the following sentences: "Nobles lived in beautiful houses. Their architecture was **splendid**."
The word **splendid** means
 - a. wonderful, magnificent
 - b. expensive, costly
 - c. simple, basic
 - d. terrible, ugly

5. The main idea of this passage is that
 - a. the Mayans lived exactly like Europeans did at the time.
 - b. the Mayans were an advanced civilization for their time.
 - c. the Mayans were unaware of modern science and technology.
 - d. the Mayans disappeared and left no history behind.

6. What did the Mayans use as a guide while creating their complex calendars?

7. Explain two ways that Mayan civilization was "very organized."

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Mayans often tried new farming methods, _____ rotating crops, in order to preserve their soil and make it fertile longer.

- a. however
- b. such as
- c. as long as
- d. finally

9. Answer the following question based on the sentence below.

While Europe was in the Dark Ages, the Mayans invented many new things because they never stopped learning.

1. Who? the Mayans

2. What did the Mayans do? _____

3. Why? _____

4. When? _____

10. Vocabulary Word: drought: a period of time when there is little or no rain. Use the vocabulary word in a sentence:

Multiplication :

1. Write out the table facts to support your accuracy
2. Remember the strategy and the place holder '0'
3. Check by carrying out the inverse

$1232 \times 2 =$ _____	$5672 \times 5 =$ _____
$4543 \times 4 =$ _____	$7854 \times 2 =$ _____
$1825 \times 3 =$ _____	$2 \times 4532 =$ _____
5801×3 $=$ _____	$4 \times 3401 =$ _____
$9021 \times 4 =$ _____	$3456 \times 6 =$ _____
$5643 \times 100 =$ _____	$5621 \times 2 =$ _____
$3213 \times 3 =$ _____	$2301 \times 3 =$ _____

What tips to success do you need?

$123 \times 12 =$ _____	$5672 \times 31 =$ _____
$45 \times 24 =$ _____	$7854 \times 22 =$ _____
$1825 \times 32 =$ _____	$12 \times 4532 =$ _____
5801×23 $=$ _____	$41 \times 3401 =$ _____
$9021 \times 41 =$ _____	$3456 \times 26 =$ _____
$5643 \times 100 =$ _____	$5621 \times 21 =$ _____
$321 \times 33 =$ _____	$231 \times 23 =$ _____

Year 3/year 4 statutory word list grouped by area

suffix -ly, -ally	-ible words	split digraph – long vowel sounds	Other words
accidentally actually occasion(ally) probably	possible	Two letters make one sound that are split (e.g. guide - 'i-e') arrive decide describe extreme guide surprise (review work from Year 1)	answer breath breathe build calendar complete consider continue early earth experiment group guard forward(s) fruit
'n' spelt as 'kn'	-ough letter strings enough though/although thought through (currently taught in Years 5/6)		
knowledge knowledgeable	Words from other countries	cross-curricular words earth eight/eighth fruit heart history increase minute natural opposite position quarter regular weight material experiment length	heard heart history imagine important increase island learn length material minute natural often particular peculiar perhaps popular potatoes promise purpose quarter regular remember sentence special (-tial words) straight strange strength surprise woman/women
-tion and -sion words mention occasion position possess(ion) question	bicycle (cycle - from the Greek for <i>wheel</i>) (bi-meaning 'two')		
'or' sound spelt 'ough' caught naughty (regional pronunciation)	'i' sound spelt as 'u' busy/business	's' sound spelt as 'c' before 'e', 'i' and 'y' bicycle centre century certain circle decide exercise experience medicine notice recent (review work from Year 2)	
'el', 'ey' and 'elgh' sounds eight/eighth reign weight height (exception)	adding prefixes (dis)appear (dis)believe (re)build (re)position		
adverbials therefore	unstressed vowels different favourite February interest library ordinary separate		
-ous words famous various	double consonants address appear arrive different difficult disappear grammar occasion opposite pressure suppose		

Spelling Champion 3/4 words

Task One: Write out any spelling words you need a quick reminder on.

Task Two: Write a variety of sentences using the above spellings.

Task Three: Play the Y6 Spelling Champion game against family members. Who will be the spelling champion? Tweet your results

Year 5/year 6 statutory word list grouped by area

Unstressed vowels	Other words	ie are adjacent	-ous words
accommodate bruise category cemetery definite desperate dictionary embarrass environment exaggerate marvellous nuisance parliament privilege secretary vegetable	amateur average awkward bargain controversy curiosity develop forty guarantee harass hindrance identity individual interfere interrupt language leisure lightning muscle neighbour persuade programme queue recognise relevant restaurant rhyme rhythm shoulder signature stomach temperature twelfth vegetable vehicle yacht	soldier sufficient variety ancient foreign (<i>exception to the pattern</i>)	disastrous marvellous mischievous
		Double consonants	Words originating from other countries
		accommodate accompany according aggressive apparent appreciate attached committee communicate community correspond immediate occupy occur opportunity recommend suggest	conscience conscious desperate yacht
Unstressed consonants			Cross-curricular words
government			forty temperature twelfth
Suffixes and prefixes			-le words
according attached criticise (critic+ise) determined equip(-ment, -ped) especially frequently immediate(-ly) (un)necessary sincere(-ly)		Word families	available vegetable vehicle muscle
		familiar identity signature symbol (this is revision from year 3/year 4)	'c' makes 's' sound before 'l', 'e' and 'y'
'i' before 'e' except after 'c' when the sound is 'ee'	-tion words	'y' makes the 'i' as in 'bin' sound	cemetery convenience criticise excellent existence hindrance necessary prejudice sacrifice
achieve convenience mischievous (regional pronunciation, e.g. if use the 'ee' sound)	competition explanation profession pronunciation	physical symbol system (this is revision from year 3/year 4)	
	-ough letter strings		
	thorough		

Year 6

CHALLENGE!!!

Who out of Year 6 can find more words which are not on this list but follow the spelling rules?

Tweet your responses.



Spelling Champion 5/6 spelling words

Task One: Write out any spelling words you need a quick reminder on.

Task Two: Write a variety of sentences using the above spellings.

Task Three: Play the Y6 Spelling Champion game against family members. Who will be the spelling champion? Tweet your results