

Questions about the Mayan Civilization
7th Grade Social Studies

1. Where do historians believe the first bands of hunter/gatherers in the Americas came from?
 - a. Africa
 - b. Europe
 - c. Asia
 - d. another solar system
2. What does the term **Mesoamerica** mean?
 - a. "all of the Americas"
 - b. "America before people inhabited the land"
 - c. "Middle America modern-day Mexico south to Central America"
 - d. none of the above
3. Which was an **especially important food source** for the Olmecs and the Mayans?
 - a. mangoes
 - b. olives
 - c. corn
 - d. rice
4. The Olmec Civilization, which preceded the Mayan Civilization, is credited with which invention?
 - a. the wheel
 - b. the sun calendar
 - c. the sculpture
 - d. metal tools
5. What allowed the Mayans to develop such highly accurate calendars?
 - a. their knowledge of mathematics
 - b. observatories they built to watch the heavens
 - c. charts they kept to track the movement of the moon, stars, and planets in view
 - d. all of the above
6. Who were the only members of Mayan society who knew how to read and write?
 - a. peasants and slaves
 - b. merchants and artisans
 - c. priests and nobles
 - d. all of the above

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7. Which members of Mayan society became slaves?
- children who were sold by their parents
 - war prisoners
 - people punished for serious crimes
 - all of the above
8. Mayan religion was polytheistic, meaning a belief in many gods. Priests believed it was necessary to perform sacrifices to please these gods. Why?
- Mayan priests believed that the gods only performed good deeds for their people
 - Mayan priests believed that blood sacrifices would weaken the evil god
 - Mayan priests believed that gods had created the world, but also could destroy it if they were unhappy
 - none of the above
9. What agricultural technique did the Mayans use to clear forested land so that it could be used to grow crops?
- flash flooding to wash away the trees
 - slash and burn agriculture
 - fumigation (treat with fumes) and herbicide (treat with poisons) spraying
 - all of the above
10. Marriage customs in Mayan society were detailed and had to be agreed upon by both the bride and groom's families. Which choice below was not customary?
- girls got married as young as the age of 14
 - marriages were arranged by a matchmaker
 - an agreement by the groom's family as to how long he would work for the new wife's family
 - young men had to be at least 30 years old before they could get married