



Maya food

The Maya ate a wide variety of food which was produced by hunting, foraging and large-scale farming.

Most of the Maya food was grown in the fields or gardens (known as pet kot). The Maya used a mixed cropping type of gardening as well as forest gardening to manage the jungle around them.



Ancient Maya diet consisted mostly of: maize, squash and beans. Of these, maize was the most common; it could be ground up and made into tortillas to wrap meat and beans in. Additionally, the forest garden provided avocados, wild plums, mammey, pimienta gorda (all spice) chaya and cacao. For a varied diet, deer, armadillo, monkeys, agouti paca, turtle and iguana were all hunted whilst fish, lobsters and shrimps were caught from the sea.

Did you know, the Maya were the first people to grow the cocoa plant for food? The Maya people believed that cocoa was a gift from the gods – its name ‘theobroma’ literally translates as ‘food of the gods’. Cacao was drunk at a range of ceremonies, including weddings, and there is also evidence of it being used regularly to add flavour and spice to food.



- 1 Find and copy a **group of words** which means the same as ‘a present from the deities’.



1 mark



Maya clothes

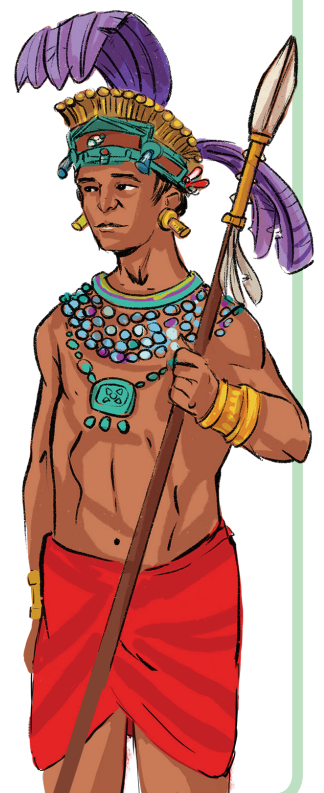
Maya clothes helped people identify between the different classes in society. Moreover, the different fabrics used were an important part of religious beliefs and art.

It is known that, women were the traditional weavers in Maya society who worked with plant fibres like cotton, margey or agave. These materials were very difficult to extract and it was extremely hard work!

Primarily, cotton was associated with affluent people and often dyed to make multi-coloured clothes.

Interestingly, these dyes were made of insects, shellfish, indigo and plants. Also, noble women worked with feathers and pearl beads as well as learning to weave tapestries and brocade (a rich decorated fabric). Women wore two main types of outfit; either a huipil (loose fitting top) with a skirt or a traje (simple dress) which reached the floor, each held by a faja, or sash. This tradition has been preserved; the huipil is still worn by Maya today.

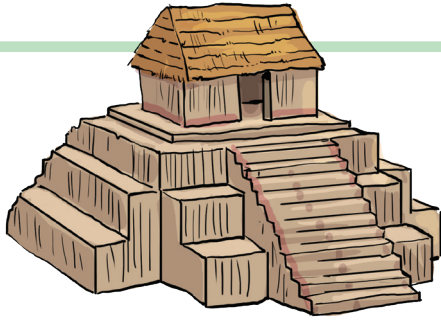
Conversely men wore either a loincloth or a short skirt, sometimes with a sleeveless shirt. The priests and nobles wore decorative items such as jewellery, which could be made from jade, wood or bone. Both men and women would have a pati, a rectangular piece of fabric that could be worn as a cloak or used as a blanket.



- 2 Find and copy a **group of words** which means the same as 'linked with wealthy citizens'.



1 mark



Maya homes

The Maya were fantastic architects and built huge amounts of temples, palaces, causeways, schools and marketplaces!

There is evidence that the temples and palaces were mainly made of stone whereas the huts were made of either stone, wood, thatch and adobe (mud mixed with straw).

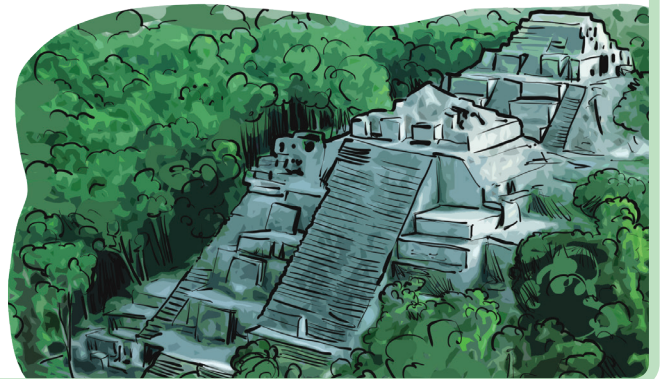
These buildings show that the Maya were excellent at overcoming challenges; as they did not have carts – they moved enormous stones on logs or with complex pulley systems.

The Maya levelled the ground before they built, either flattening the top of a hill or building up platforms: the more important the building the higher the platform.



Interestingly, the huts were oval-shaped! Houses were built around a central plaza and were mainly for sleeping, with beds made of wood and topped with a woven mat. The kitchen would be in a different building. These huts had fireplaces and, even nowadays, archaeologists find pottery and stone tools when they excavate.

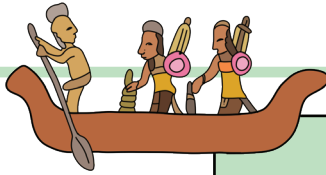
Due to these close family bonds, family members were often buried underneath or near the house to protect the living members. The royals and nobles lived in the centre of the city whereas ordinary members of society lived further out.



- 3 Find and copy a **group of words** which means the same as 'superb at conquering problems'.



1 mark



Maya games



Just like us, the ancient Maya loved playing dice, board, marbles, and ball games. One of the things they are most remembered for is their ball game, pitz or pok-a-pok.

Pitz is more than 3,500 years old. Over 1300 courts have been found all in the shape of a capital 'I'. There was no standard size for ball courts meaning they could be large or small. Crowds of spectators gathered on high platforms on either side, which were decorated with painted murals depicting warriors, rituals and ceremonies.

We know that the aim of the game was to get the ball to the other side of the court or to make the other team drop the ball. They used a rubber ball which was not meant to touch the ground and the players wore leather protective clothing and sometimes a ritual headdress. The ball could be hit using the hips, knees or right elbow. The main aim was to make the other team drop the ball.

There are some similarities with ball games we play nowadays: for example, the Maya worked together as a team, usually consisting of between 2-6 players.

While Pitz was played for enjoyment, the ball game had a religious role - some games were played to keep the gods happy. It is believed that the game could be played instead of going to war. For these sacred and diplomatic games, unfortunately, human sacrifice was probably part of the games, with perhaps the losing captain or captured nobles sacrificed to the gods.



- 4 Find and copy a **group of words** which means the same as 'placate the deities'.



1 mark

Extract from 'Malamander' by Thomas Taylor

You've probably been to Eerie-on-Sea, without ever knowing it. When you came, it would have been summer. There would have been ice cream and deckchairs and a seagull that pinched your chips. You probably poked about in the rock pools with your mum, while your dad found that funny shell.

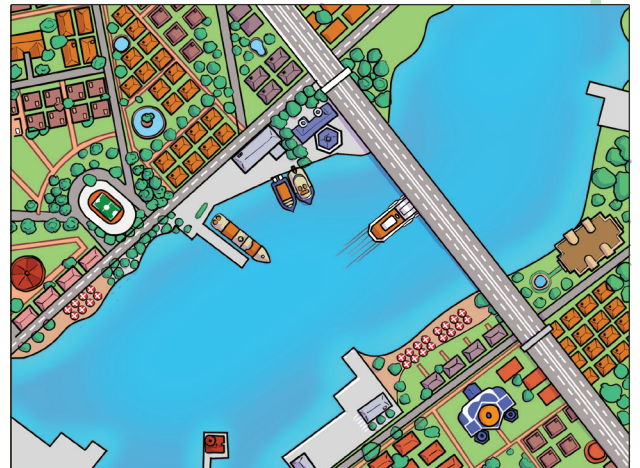
Remember? And I bet that when you got in the car to drive home, you looked up at the words CHEERIE-on-SEA – written in light-bulb letters over the pier – and got ready to forget all about your day at the seaside. It's that kind of place. In the summer.

But you should try being here when the first winter storms blow in, when the letters "C" and "H" blow off the pier, as they always do in November. When sea mist drifts up the streets like vast ghostly tentacles, and saltwater spray rattles the windows of the Grand Nautilus Hotel. Few people visit Eerie-on-Sea then.

Even the locals keep off the beach when darkness falls and the wind howls around Maw Rocks and the wreck of the battleship Leviathan, where even now some swear they have seen the unctuous malamander creep.

But you probably don't believe in the malamander. You maybe think there's no way a fish-man can be real. And that's fine. Stick to your ice cream and deckchairs.

This story probably isn't for you anyway. In fact, do yourself a favour and stop reading now. Close this book and lock it in an old tin box. Wrap the box in a heavy chain and throw it off the pier. Forget you ever heard of Eerie-on-Sea.



- 5 Find and copy a **group of words** which means the same as 'huge phantom limbs'.

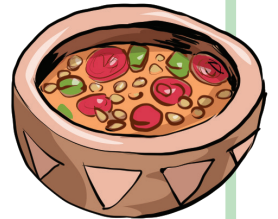


1 mark

Extract from 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin

The day my brother Ellington was born my elder sister Sandra, who was four, my brother Lester, who was two, and I, aged three, were all out on the gallery – that's what we called the verandah. My mother, whom we affectionately named Marmie, had told us that if we looked hard enough we would see a stork flying high in the sky with our new baby.

I was hungry and really wanted Marmie to make one of her delicious soups for us, but I dared not take my eyes off the sky just in case I missed the big arrival. Anyway, Mrs Jackson, the local midwife who lived in the lane opposite our house, said we couldn't come into the house to see my mother until she called us.



I was beginning to feel more and more hungry, tired and anxious but I still kept my eyes glued to the heavens. Suddenly I heard the loud cry of a newborn baby. I felt happy but disappointed at the same time because I hadn't seen the stork arrive. My mother told us it had come through the back door. I looked for it years later when my brother Roy and sister Cynthia arrived.

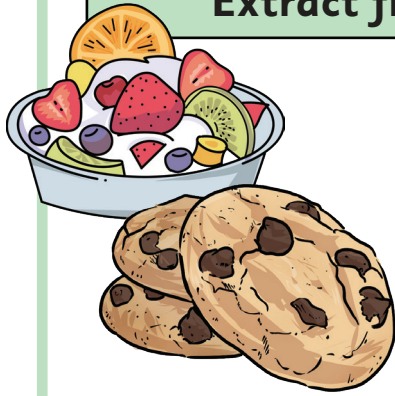
Mrs Jackson was always there but I never spotted that elusive stork coming through the front or the back door! The house we lived in was a small wooden building on stilts with dazzling whitewashed walls. There were windows and doors at the front and the back.

- 6 Find and copy a **group of words** which means the same as 'transfixed to the sky'.



1 mark

Extract from 'Who Let the Gods Out?' by Maz Evans



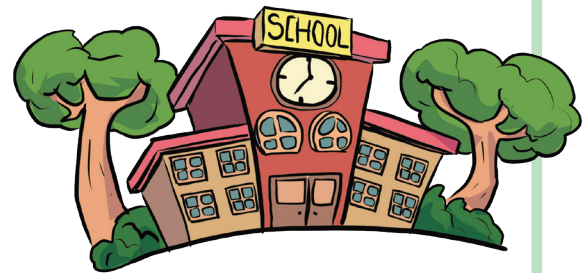
It began on a Friday, as strange things often do. This particular Friday turned out to be stranger than most, although it had started normally enough. Elliot Hooper got up at 7:30am as normal, made his mum breakfast at 8:15am as normal, went to school at 8:55am as normal and was in the headmaster's office by 9:30am, which was, in fact, slightly later than normal.

Elliot,' sighed Graham Sopweed, headmaster of Brysmore Grammar School. 'What are we going to do with you?' Elliot scratched his shaggy blond head. He figured that 'excuse me from school for ever and make me Lord High Emperor of the Universe' wouldn't be deemed an acceptable answer, so he said nothing. 'You seem rather... distracted lately,' said Mr Sopweed to fill the silence. 'Is everything OK? Is anything wrong at school? Or at home?' Elliot avoided his headmaster's concerned stare. School was... well, it was school. Annoying, boring, pointless. Nothing new there.

But home? That was a different story... 'I'm fine,' he said after a lengthy pause.

'Thank you, sir.' 'Oh, Elliot,' Mr Sopweed sighed again, nervously flicking his floppy grey fringe.

'You know you can call me Graham. Let's all use the names our mothers gave us.' There were many more creative names for Brysmore's headmaster than the one his mother gave him, but the politest by far was Call Me Graham. A shout outside nearly made the jumpy headmaster fall off his chair. Elliot couldn't help but feel sorry for Call Me Graham.



- 7 Find and copy a **group of words** which means the same as 'considered a reasonable response'.



1 mark

'Extract from 'Adventures of Isabel' by Ogden Nash

Isabel met an enormous bear,
Isabel, Isabel, didn't care;
The bear was hungry, the bear was ravenous,
The bear's big mouth was cruel and cavernous.
The bear said, Isabel, glad to meet you,
How do, Isabel, now I'll eat you!
Isabel, Isabel, didn't worry.
Isabel didn't scream or scurry.
She washed her hands and she straightened her hair up,
Then Isabel quietly ate the bear up.



Once in a night as black as pitch
Isabel met a wicked old witch.
The witch's face was cross and wrinkled,
The witch's gums with teeth were sprinkled.
Ho, ho, Isabel! the old witch crowed,
I'll turn you into an ugly toad!
Isabel, Isabel, didn't worry,
Isabel didn't scream or scurry,
She showed no rage and she showed no rancour,
But she turned the witch into milk and drank her.

- 8 Find and copy a **group of words** which means the same as 'didn't display any malice'.



1 mark

Extract from 'All my Great Excuses' by Kenn Nesbitt

Tornadoes blew my notes away.
Volcanoes struck our town.
My notes were taken hostage
by an evil killer clown.



Some aliens abducted me.
I had a shark attack.
A pirate swiped my homework
and refused to give it back.

I worked on these excuses
so darned long my teacher said,
"I think you'll find it's easier
to do the work instead."

- 9 Find and copy a **group of words** which means the same as 'papers have been imprisoned'.



1 mark

'Success is Counted Sweetest' by Emily Dickinson

Success is counted sweetest
By those who ne'er succeed.
To comprehend a nectar
Requires sorest need.

Not one of all the purple Host
Who took the Flag today
Can tell the definition
So clear of victory

As he defeated – dying –
On whose forbidden ear
The distant strains of triumph
Burst agonised and clear!

10

Find and copy a **group of words** which means the same as 'faraway sounds of victory'.

1 mark

**Total
marks**