



## EARLY PEOPLES

# The Maya

*The Maya* explores the daily life, history, and culture of this great American Indian civilization who survived for thousands of years.

### What did you learn?

#### QUESTIONS

1. In Classic Mayan society, the two elite classes were the ahaw and the ...
  - a. Scribes
  - b. Artisans
  - c. Sahal
  - d. Ah K'in
2. Mayan temples were constructed of limestone or ...
  - a. Quartz
  - b. Granite
  - c. Mudstone
  - d. Sandstone
3. In the Postclassic Period, Maya were married at around the age of ...
  - a. 18
  - b. 20
  - c. 25
  - d. 32
4. From about 750 to about 1050, the center of Mayan civilization was in ...
  - a. The Caribbean
  - b. The Lacondan jungle
  - c. The Yucatán
  - d. Chichén Itzá
5. In Tikal, Temple I was also known as what?
6. The deity Chac, was god of what?

#### TRUE OR FALSE?

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|---|--|
| _____ 1. The Guatemalan highlands region stretched across Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador. | _____ 4. The Maya used a mathematical system based on the number 5.    |
| _____ 2. The Maya were united under a strong central government.                              | _____ 5. Mayan men and women both wore their hair long.                |
| _____ 3. The two largest known cities of the Classic Period were Tikal and Calakmul.          | _____ 6. Today, the Mayan languages have died out in favor of Spanish. |



## ANSWERS

- 1. c. Sahal.** According to section "The Elite" on page 14, we know that "In Classic Mayan society, there were two elite classes: the ahaw (*ah HOW*) and the sahal (*sah H AHL*)." So, the correct answer is C.
- 2. d. Sandstone.** According to section "Temples" on page 30, we know that "Like other Mayan buildings, the temples were constructed of limestone or sandstone." So, the correct answer is D.
- 3. b. 20.** According to section "Family Life" on page 45, we know that "In the Postclassic Period, Maya were married at around the age of 20 to a spouse who had been chosen by their families when the bride and groom were children." So, the correct answer is B.
- 4. c. The Yucatán.** According to section "The Postclassic Period and Afterward" on page 56, we know that "From about 750 to about 1050, the center of Mayan civilization was in the Yucatán, in Mexico." So, the correct answer is C.
- 5.** According to page 4, Temple I was also known as the Temple of the Giant Jaguar.
- 6.** According to page 24, Chac was the rain and storm god.

## TRUE OR FALSE? ANSWERS

- 1. True.** According to section "Where Did the Maya Live?" on page 7, we know that "The Guatemalan highlands region stretched from present-day Chiapas in Mexico through what is now Guatemala and El Salvador." So, the correct answer is True.
- 2. False.** According to section "Government" on page 20, we know that "The Maya were never united under a single central government." So, the correct answer is False.
- 3. True.** According to section "Cities" on page 28, we know that "The two largest known cities of the Classic Period were Tikal and Calakmul." So, the correct answer is True.
- 4. False.** According to section "Mathematics and Astronomy" on page 38, we know that "The Maya used a mathematical system based on the number 20, instead of 10 (as in the present-day decimal system)." So, the correct answer is False.
- 5. True.** According to section "Clothing and Personal Appearance" on page 47, we know that "Men and women both wore their hair long." So, the correct answer is True.
- 6. False.** According to section "The Maya Today" on page 58, we know that "Today, many people of this region speak one of some 25 to 30 languages that developed from the ancient Mayan language." So, the correct answer is False.