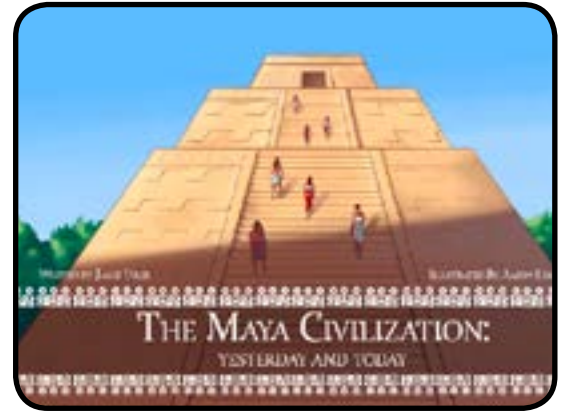


# The Maya Civilization: Yesterday and Today

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The Maya civilization began more than 4,000 years ago in Mexico and the northern part of Central America.

The Maya people were one of the most advanced societies in the ancient Americas. Long before the Spanish explorers came to Central America, the Maya were building cities and achieving amazing things.

One thing the Maya were known for was building huge stone pyramids. One Maya pyramid in Guatemala, called La Danta, is one of the largest pyramids in the world. It's more than 20 stories high and nearly 2,000 feet wide!

The Maya was also the only ancient society in ancient America that had a complete written language. Pieces of Maya writing have been found on buildings, pottery, and paper made from tree bark.

After the Spanish explorers came to Central America, life for the Maya people changed. But the Maya people didn't disappear. Millions of Maya people still live in Mexico and Central America today.

Some Maya people still live in a way that's similar to the ancient Maya. They speak Mayan languages and keep the traditions that have been passed on for centuries. Some Maya people weave cloth and grow food in ways that are a lot like the ancient Maya.

Other people who have Maya ancestors speak Spanish and go to public schools. There are Maya people in all walks of life, including baseball players, musicians, and politicians.

From ancient times to today, the Maya people continue to be an important part of our world culture.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title

Main Idea 1

Main Idea 2

Subtopic

Subtopic

Subtopic

Subtopic

Detail

Detail

Detail

Detail

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title  
The Maya Civilization

Main Idea 1  
Ancient Maya did amazing things.

Main Idea 2  
Maya are important today.

Subtopic  
They built one of the largest pyramids in the world.

Subtopic  
They had a complete written language.

Subtopic  
Some live like ancient Maya.

Subtopic  
There are Maya in all walks of life.

Detail  
La Danta

Detail  
Found on pottery  
Found on buildings

Detail  
Speak Mayan languages  
Weave cloth and grow food like ancient Maya.

Detail  
Speak Spanish  
Go to public school