

Ancient Americans: The Maya

STATION 1 | Daily life in Mayan culture

Directions: Use the classroom laptop to navigate the glog and explore the religion, recreation, and eating habits of the Maya. Include at least three examples in each panel below.

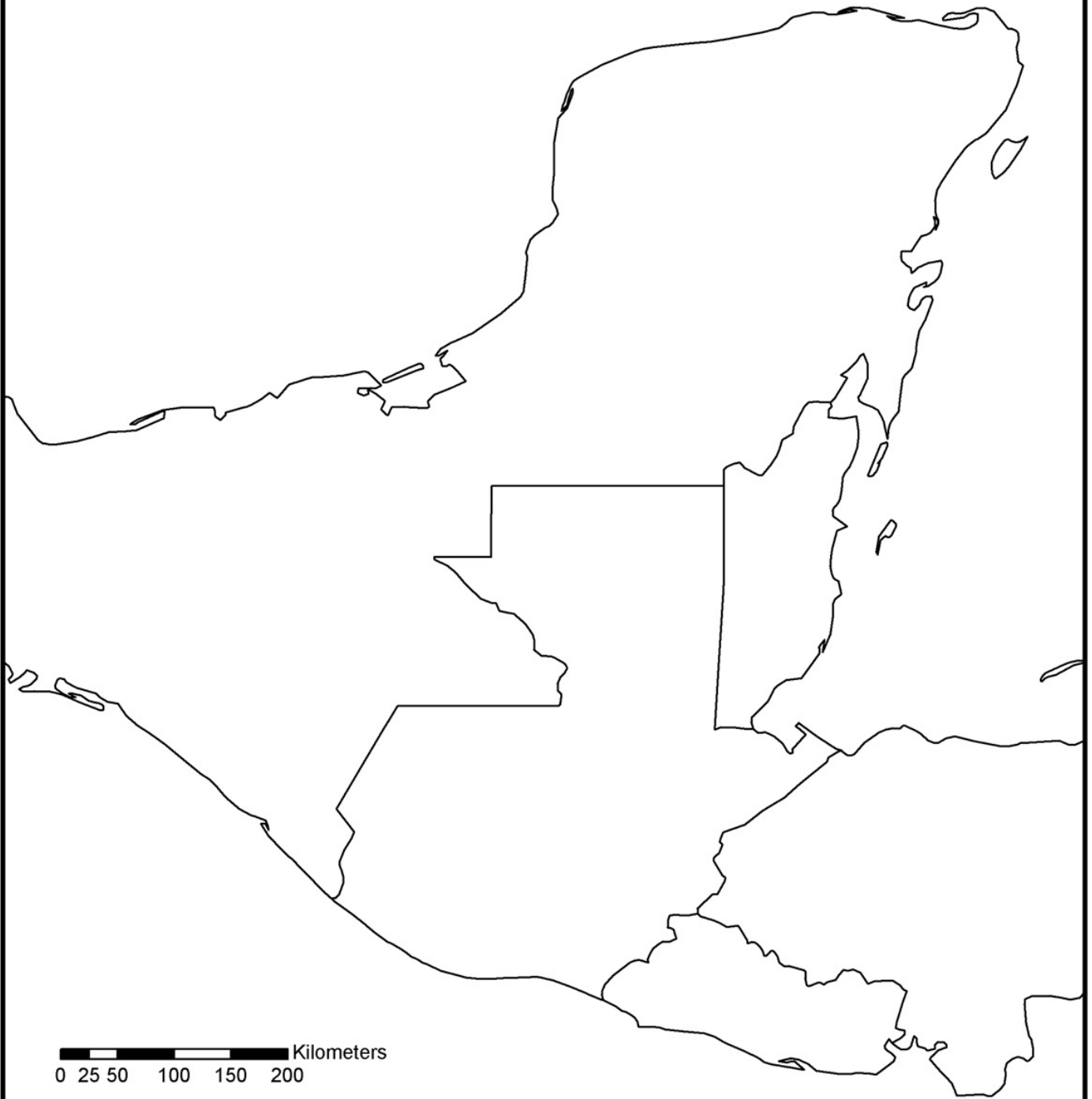
- In the **left column**, describe that part of **ancient Mayan culture**.
- In the **center column**, explain how Mayan society is **different from** modern American culture.
- In the **right column**, explain how Mayan society is **similar to** modern American culture.

MAYAN CULTURE	DIFFERENCES	SIMILARITIES
<p>Religion <i>Built temples as places of worship</i></p>	<p><i>Mayans built giant pyramids</i></p>	<p><i>Many U.S. churches: large, ornate</i></p>
<p>Food</p>		
<p>Games and recreation</p>		

STATION 2 | Mapping the Maya

Directions: See back of this page.

The Maya Area



0 25 50 100 150 200 Kilometers

0 25 50 100 150 200 Miles

The Electronic Atlas of Ancient Maya Sites
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STATION 2 | Mapping the Maya (continued)

Directions: Use the print resources to complete the following.

1. Circle on the map below the area we see on page two's map.



2. On page two's map, label the five modern-day nations. (Atlas pages 108-110 will help you.)
3. Label the following physical features:
Caribbean Sea
Gulf of Mexico
Pacific Ocean
Gulf of Honduras
Bay of Campeche
Sierra Madre mountain range

Use the dictionary to define the following:

4. **mestizos**

5. **indigenous**

6. **peninsula**

7. What is the name of the peninsula where many Mayan cities were located?
8. On page two's map, label these Mayan cities:
Tikal
Copan
Chichen Itza
Tulum
Uxmal
9. Again consulting your atlas (pages 108-110), explain what percentage of the population of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras have indigenous ancestry?
10. Describe (or label on your map) the areas with "mainly indigenous population".

STATION 3 | Mayan translation

Directions: You will find a message encoded in ancient Mayan glyphs, each of which represents the sound of single syllable.

1. **Find** the matching syllables.
2. Write the **sounds** in the first box.
3. **Talk it out** among your group. It's a phrase or person that should be very familiar to you.
4. Write the solution in the second box.

Sounds of the syllables:	
Solution:	

STATION 4 | Video: "The Rise of the Maya"

Directions: Watch the short video on the Maya, then answer the questions below.

1. Describe at least 3 examples of interactions between the Mayans and other early Native American groups.
2. The narrator explained that only four Mayan books exist today because the Spanish viewed them as 'dangerous and subversive' and destroyed them. Why might the Spanish have viewed these books as 'dangerous and subversive'?
3. The Mayans were fixated on pleasing the gods. Why was it so important for the Mayans to do so?
4. What is a 'barter system'? Describe the barter system used by the Maya.
5. Does this system still exist in some form in modern day America? Explain.