

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Mayan Civilization: Builders of Pyramids and Mysteries

### Short Answer Key

1. The Maya achieved impressive architectural feats, including the construction of step-pyramids known as pyramids. These structures featured intricate stone carvings and were used for religious and ceremonial purposes.
2. The Maya used their knowledge of astronomy and calendars to predict celestial events, align religious ceremonies, and organize their agricultural activities, such as planting and harvesting.
3. Hieroglyphics were a complex system of Mayan writing that included both pictorial symbols and phonetic elements. They were recorded on stelae and in codices (bark-paper books) to document history, beliefs, and rituals.
4. Theories about the decline of the Maya civilization include drought, warfare, overpopulation, and political instability. The exact cause remains a subject of debate among scholars.
5. The Maya civilization's legacy is present in modern-day Mexico and Central America through the preservation of their language, cultural traditions, and the continuation of their descendants.

