

## MAYA CIVILIZATION GEOGRAPHY

Use the clues below to **label** the following on your map (you do not need to include words in brackets). If you cannot locate one of the items on the list, come back to it as you locate others. Some items will require you to use multiple clues.

**You may NOT use ANY aids for these assignments. This MUST be done ONLY with the provided clues. This is a lesson in critical thinking and problem solving as much as mapping and geography. You must be prepared to justify your choices.**

1) Belize River (Old River)

Located in the East near the Belize Barrier Reef.

2) Usumacinta River

The longest river in the Maya civilization. It was an important trade route. Two of the most powerful cities of the Maya Classic Period were located on its bank.

3) Tabasco River (Grijalva River)

South of the Usumacinta River.

4) Motagua River

Located in the Southeast.

5) Gulf of Mexico

Northwest of the Maya civilization.

6) Caribbean Sea

Northeast of the Maya civilization.

7) Pacific Ocean

South of the Maya civilization.

8) Laguna de Términos

A large and rich tidal lagoon (a shallow body of water separated from a large body of water by barrier islands or reefs). Located in the Northwest near the Usumacinta River.

9) Chetumal Bay

A large bay in the Caribbean Sea on the East of Maya civilization.

10) Gulf of Honduras

North of Copán in the Caribbean Sea.

11) Amatique Bay

West of the Gulf of Honduras.

12) Lake Izabal

The largest lake in Guatemala.

13) Belize Barrier Reef

The second largest barrier reef in the world after the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. It runs along the coast of Belize, just North of Amatique Bay, up to Chetumal Bay.

14) Sierra Madre de Chiapas

Part of the American Cordillera mountain ranges, which includes the Rockies in British Columbia. Runs all along the Southern part of the map. Several active volcanos are part of the Sierra Madre de Chiapas.

15) Sierra de los Cuchumatanes

North of the Sierra Madre de Chiapas at the end of the Highlands. Starts just beyond the Usumacinta River, and extends to the Motagua River.

16) Maya Mountains

Runs North along the Belize River.

17) Highlands

Along the South of the Maya civilization, about one quarter of the map.

18) Lowlands

Three-fourths of the North of the Maya civilization.

19) Tikal

An important Maya civilization city, located at the heart of Mayan lands. North of the Maya Mountains. There are six large pyramids in the city (now called Temples I – VI), plus additional pyramids.

20) Uxmal

Home of the Pyramid of the Magician. Located North of Calakmul. Considered to be one of the best Maya archaeological sites that most represent the region's architectural style.

21) Chichen Itza

Home of the El Castillo pyramid. A major focal point in the Northern Lowlands.  
West of Cobá.

22) Palenque (Lakamha)

A medium-sized city that contains some of the finest architecture and sculpture.  
One of the most important cities in the West of the Maya civilization. On the  
West bank of the Usumacinta River.

23) Copán

The capital of a large and powerful Southern kingdom during the Classic period.

24) Toniná

An aggressive state that used war, often against its greatest rival, Palenque.  
Toniná eventually became the dominant city in the West.

25) Yaxchilán

The most powerful city along the banks of the Usumacinta River. Rival of  
Palenque, going to war in 654 C.E. For a time also a rival of Tikal. Its main rival,  
however, was Piedras Negras.

26) Calakmul

Another large and powerful city in the Mayan civilization. It was known as the  
Kingdom of the Snake. Had an intense rivalry with Tikal. The Classic period was  
dominated by the rivalry between the two.

27) Cobá

Located in the Northern Lowlands. Controlled a large region of farmlands and  
trading routes. Also had control over ample water sources.

28) Piedras Negras

City on the Usumacinta river, and the main rival of Yaxchilán.

**\*See back page**

Colour the following on your map:

- 1) Outline all bodies of water in **BLUE**.
- 2) Draw a **BLUE** line over all rivers.
- 3) Outline the Maya civilization **GREEN**.
- 4) Draw a **BROWN** string of triangles where the mountain ranges are.
- 5) LIGHTLY shade the Highlands **PINK**.
- 6) LIGHTLY shade the Lowlands **ORANGE**.
- 7) Colour the Belize Barrier Reef **YELLOW**.