

Cornell Notes Grade 5 Florida NGSSS	Topic/Objective: <b>The Mayan Empire 2500 BCE-900 CE</b>	Name:
	NGSSS: <i>SS.5.A.2.1, SS.5.G.1.1, SS.5.G.3.1, SS.5.G.4.1</i>	Social Studies
	Vocabulary: Geography, Culture, Hieroglyphic, City-States, Ceremonies, Rituals, Archaeologists, Artifacts, Obsidian, Caste System,	Date:

**Essential Question:** What did archaeologists learn about the Mayan culture, way of life, and disappearance?

Questions:	Notes: <b>The Mayans</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In around 2500 BCE (Before Common Era) the <b>Mayan</b> culture arose in SE Mexico (areas of Mexico, Honduras, Belize and Guatemala) <b>Over 2,300 years ago</b></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They were farmers, hunters, builders, very religious</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mayans were one of the most powerful kingdoms from about 250 CE (Common Era)- 900 CE</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Geography</b> of Mesoamerica: Rainforests, mountains, coasts</li> </ul>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Culture</b> had many great achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced 365 day calendar that helped with farming, scheduling religious festivals and rituals, and eclipses</li> <li>Advanced mathematics system</li> <li>Advanced <b>hieroglyphic writing system</b> (symbols)</li> <li>Advanced trade route with neighboring tribes.</li> <li>Advanced architecture, pyramids, temples, <b>city-states</b></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Believed in Gods, Kings ruled over thousands of people.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participated in war-like, violent <b>ceremonies and rituals</b>.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Archaeologists</b> believe Mayans learned from the <b>artifacts</b> that the <b>Olmecs</b> left behind.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Society had a <b>Caste System</b> (leveling class system): Top-King, his family, religious leaders, military leaders. Middle- Craftsman and merchants, Lower- farmers. Bottom-slaves</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Important buildings made of stone, houses made from straw and had thatched roofs and sun-dried brick.</li> </ul>

## Beliefs and customs:

- Men and women had long black hair.
- Wealthy upper class wore animal skins and headdresses, used Jade and precious stone for jewelry,
- Parents tied boards to baby's heads to give them flat foreheads.
- Valued large noses

### • Religious Ceremonies:

- Played a ball game called pok-a-tok between neighboring villages to honor the Gods.
- Human sacrifices were offered. Sometimes the winners were sacrificed, sometimes losers or slaves.

### • Astronomers

- Studies skies for farming and religious practices
- Perfected several calendars that are still used today.

### • Works of art, resources, tools

- Used obsidian (flint-hard stone) to carve images, writing, and numbers.
- Created wooden sculptures, murals, statues,
- Used clay for bowls & vases that were gifts for Gods.

## Fall of the Mayan Empire

- Scientists believe a combination of events led to the downfall of this advanced, powerful civilization. Mayans did not die off, they abandoned their lands and those that survived broke into smaller villages that remain today. Lived this way for 700 years.

- Volcano eruption, hurricane, earthquake, warring with neighboring tribes, drought, flood, loss of food sources, over-population, overuse of the land,

## 1517 Spanish arrived

- Tried to conquer the remaining villages
- Many remaining Mayans died in battle and of diseases
- Some Mayans lived but much of their culture, art, technology, architecture was destroyed.

