

ENGLISH PLUS

WITH
ANSWER
KEY

PRACTICE WORKSHEETS

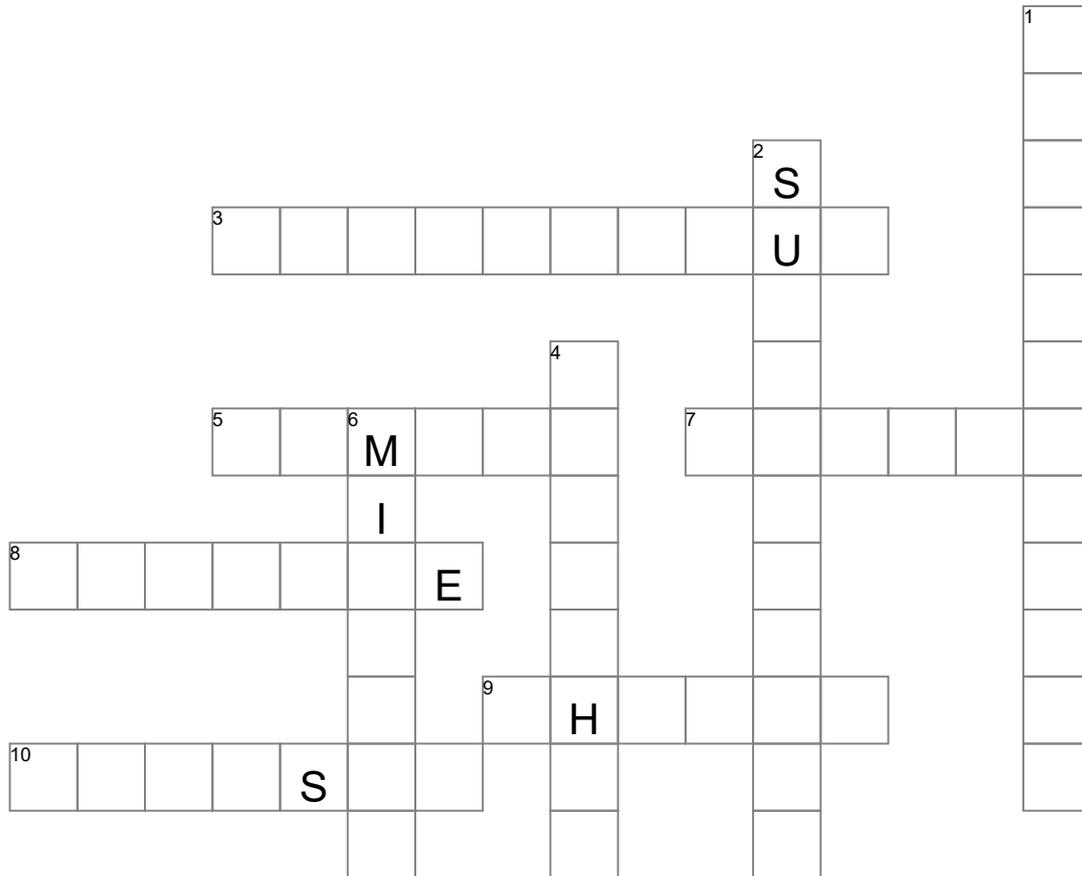


WORD POWER

THE MAYA

Word Power | The Maya

1. Using the Across and Down clues, write the correct words in the numbered grid below.



ACROSS

3. Something that is _____ is not securely held in place and seems likely to fall or collapse at any moment.
5. a severe shortage of food, as through crop failure or overpopulation
7. You can describe something as a _____ action when it is done in exactly the same way whenever a particular situation occurs.
8. direct descent from an ancestor, esp a line of descendants from one ancestor
9. A _____ is a place that people visit and treat with respect because it is connected with a dead person or with dead people that they want to remember.
10. A _____ is a period of time during which a country is ruled by members of the same family.

DOWN

1. a picture or symbol representing an object, concept, or sound
2. In _____ farming or _____ agriculture, farmers produce food to eat themselves rather than to sell.
4. to determine the meaning of (something obscure or illegible)
6. When birds, fish, or animals _____, they move at a particular season from one part of the world or from one part of a country to another, usually in order to breed or to find new feeding grounds.

Choose the best option the completes the sentences below:

2. ___ move, travel, journey, wander
a. migrate b. lineage c. famine d. hieroglyphic e. ritual
3. ___ hunger, want, starvation, deprivation
a. decipher b. famine c. dynasty d. precarious e. subsistence
4. ___ difficult to read or decipher
a. shrine b. hieroglyphic c. lineage d. subsistence e. shrine
5. ___ holy place, temple, sanctuary, altar
a. hieroglyphic b. shrine c. decipher d. ritual e. precarious
6. ___ A _____ is a way of behaving or a series of actions which people regularly carry out in a particular situation, because it is their custom to do so.
a. ritual b. decipher c. famine d. dynasty e. migrate
7. ___ decode, crack, solve, understand
a. hieroglyphic b. decipher c. shrine d. famine e. dynasty
8. ___ descent, family, line, succession
a. lineage b. precarious c. subsistence d. migrate e. ritual
9. ___ the means by which one maintains life
a. lineage b. famine c. precarious d. subsistence e. dynasty
10. ___ A _____ is a family which has members from two or more generations who are important in a particular field of activity, for example in business or politics.
a. shrine b. ritual c. decipher d. subsistence e. dynasty
11. ___ insecure, dangerous, uncertain, tricky
a. dynasty b. migrate c. migrate d. hieroglyphic e. precarious

For each question below a number of similar words appear, but only one is spelled correctly and matches the clue that is provided. Write the letter of the correctly spelled word in the space by the question number.

12. ___ a. CHRINE b. SHRINNE c. SHRINE d. SHRIN
A _____ is a place of worship which is associated with a particular holy person or object.
13. ___ a. DECIPHAR b. DECIPHIR c. DECIPHER d. DESIPHER
If you _____ a piece of writing or a message, you work out what it says, even though it is very difficult to read or understand.
14. ___ a. MIGREAT b. MIGFATE c. MIGRETE d. MIGRATE
If people _____, they move from one place to another, especially in order to find work or to live somewhere for a short time.
15. ___ a. PRECARIOS b. PRECARIOUS c. PRECARIUS d. PRECARIOUSE
If your situation is _____, you are not in complete control of events and might fail in what you are doing at any moment.

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 A _____ is a religious service or other ceremony which involves a series of actions performed in a fixed order.
17. ___ a. SUBSISTENCEE b. SUBSISTENCE c. SUBSISTENCCE d. SUBSISTANCE
 _____ is the condition of just having enough food or money to stay alive.
18. ___ a. DYCASTY b. DYNASTY c. DINASTI d. DENASTE
 A _____ is a series of rulers of a country who all belong to the same family.
19. ___ a. LINEAGE b. LINEATE c. LINEGE d. LINEEGE
 Someone's _____ is the series of families from which they are directly descended.
20. ___ a. HIEROGGLYPHIC b. HIEROGLYPHIC c. HIEROGLYPHEC d. HYEROGLYPHYC
 of or relating to a form of writing using picture symbols, esp as used in ancient Egypt
21. ___ a. FAMIN b. FAMINE c. FAMINU d. FEMINE
 _____ is a situation in which large numbers of people have little or no food, and many of them die.
22. **Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.**

R	S	E	T	Y	D	Q	I	H	H	K	J	R	X	A	Q	C	M	J	X
I	U	S	L	I	Y	W	M	I	G	R	A	T	E	D	I	R	G	A	K
T	B	U	G	N	N	Z	E	B	D	E	C	I	P	H	E	R	C	V	B
U	S	O	F	D	A	M	S	H	R	I	N	E	P	N	P	B	C	O	E
A	I	I	R	Y	S	O	M	V	D	W	V	Y	W	D	N	V	B	I	X
L	S	R	T	O	T	K	V	I	C	J	L	H	V	V	U	N	A	W	I
J	T	A	G	H	Y	Z	A	I	L	G	Y	K	J	D	I	E	Z	I	G
E	E	C	U	O	T	B	Q	G	O	G	F	A	M	I	N	E	B	H	Q
T	N	E	Q	B	Q	W	Z	R	O	T	H	N	B	I	O	H	P	A	L
E	C	R	U	E	I	N	E	P	Q	S	L	C	L	I	N	E	A	G	E
G	E	P	S	Z	B	I	Y	S	R	S	I	J	T	G	J	Q	F	A	T
C	M	A	L	L	H	Q	V	B	G	D	I	F	B	K	X	L	W	H	B

hieroglyphic
shrine

famine
lineage

decipher
precarious

dynasty
subsistence

ritual
migrate

23. *Fill in the blanks while you listen to the episode.*

The Maya

[1] _____ one of the most fascinating cultures of all time is that of the ancient Maya. Many scientists believe they had the most advanced civilization among the early peoples of the [2] _____ World. The Mayan civilization, which flourished from A.D. 250 to about A.D. 900, was situated in southern Mexico and Central America. The original Maya [3] _____ and formed fishing communities along the coastline. Later they moved inland, where their **subsistence** depended on agriculture. To maintain healthy [4] _____ of corn and other grains, they developed a complex system for managing their water supply.

Hidden behind thick vegetation and a difficult landscape, the [5] _____ of most ancient Mayan cities were not discovered until the 19th [6] _____. Around that time scientists began to **decipher** some of the picturelike **hieroglyphic** markings on Mayan [7] _____. When researchers compared the Mayan [8] _____ with the Christian calendar, they were stunned by its accuracy.

Mayan symbols, or glyphs, however, did more than mark time on a calendar. Scientists determined that the differing glyphs indicated major events that occurred during the reign of various **dynasties**, the ruling families who built small empires within the [9] _____ nation. These families [10] _____ their power on to their male children, creating an important and powerful **lineage**. From these empires came a [11] _____ of art, architecture, and writing.

Mayan artists produced stone sculptures, carvings, paintings, and exotic [12] _____. Mayan architecture included stone and earthen homes, pyramids, **shrines** devoted to Mayan gods and goddesses, and small arenas for [13] _____ competition. Writings by Mayan scribes and priests recount the lives and deeds of nobles, astronomical [14] _____ of the times, an elaborate mythology, and descriptions of religious [15] _____ and other ceremonies.

Up until about A.D. 900, the Maya were a more or less stable [16] _____. Then they mysteriously abandoned the great centers of culture and [17] _____ to **migrate** to other areas. Over the next several centuries the Maya fell victim to crop failures and the resulting [18] _____, and to invasion, periodic wars, and European diseases. The surviving [19] _____ had a **precarious** [20] _____, yet some endured Spanish conquests and internal conflict until 1697, when the last Mayan kingdom was taken by Spain.

A. famines
D. passed

B. century
E. calendar

C. crops
F. existence

- G. Perhaps
- J. jewelry
- M. Western
- P. details
- S. bounty
- H. settled
- K. athletic
- N. Mayan
- Q. cities
- T. ruins
- I. rituals
- L. calendars
- O. civilization
- R. began

24. In each line of text below there is one word that has been misspelled. Circle the misspelled word and then write the correct spelling of the word on the line on the right side of the page.

The Maea

Perhaps one off the most fascinating cultures of all time is that of the ancient Maya. Many scientists believe they had the most advanced civilization among the early peopples of the Western World. The Mayan civilization, which flourished from A.D. 250 to abowt A.D. 900, was situatd in southern Mexico and Central America. The original Maya settled and formed fishing communities along tha coastline. Later they moved inland, where their **subsistence** depended on agriculture. Toe maintain healthy crops of cern and other grains, they developed a complex system for managing their water suppli.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____

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- 11. _____
- 12. _____
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- 14. _____
- 15. _____
- 16. _____

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- 17. _____
- 18. _____
- 19. _____
- 20. _____
- 21. _____
- 22. _____
- 23. _____

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- 24. _____
- 25. _____
- 26. _____
- 27. _____
- 28. _____
- 29. _____
- 30. _____

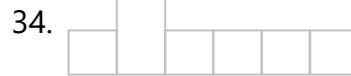
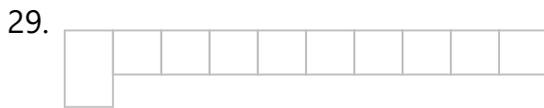
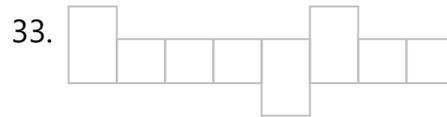
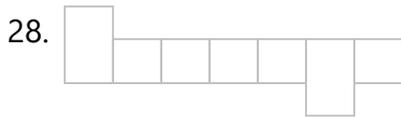
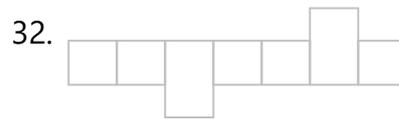
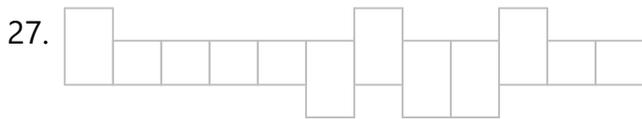
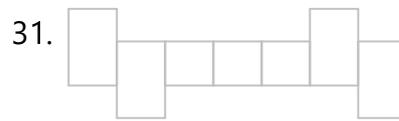
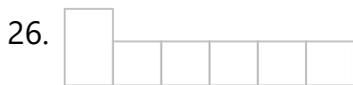
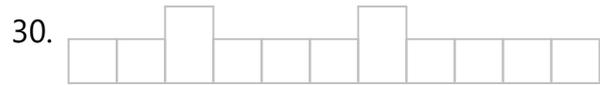
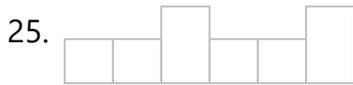
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civilization. Then they mysteriously abandoned the great centers of culture and began to **migrate** to other areas. Over the next several centuries the Maya fell victim to crop failures and the resulting **famines**, and to invasion, periodic wars, and European diseases. The surviving cities had a **precarious** existence, yet some endured Spanish conquests and internal conflict until 1697, when the last Mayan kingdom was taken by Spain.

- 32. _____
- 33. _____
- 34. _____
- 35. _____
- 36. _____
- 37. _____
- 38. _____

Print the words from the list in the empty boxes. The shape of the word must match the shape of the boxes.



- 25. A _____ is a way of behaving or a series of actions which people regularly carry out in a particular situation, because it is their custom to do so.
- 26. _____ is a situation in which large numbers of people have little or no food, and many of them die.
- 27. a picture or symbol representing an object, concept, or sound
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- 30. In _____ farming or _____ agriculture, farmers produce food to eat themselves rather than to sell.
- 31. A _____ is a period of time during which a country is ruled by members of the same family.
- 32. If people _____, they move from one place to another, especially in order to find work or to live somewhere for a short time.
- 33. If you _____ a piece of writing or a message, you work out what it says, even though it is very difficult to read or understand.
- 34. holy place, temple, sanctuary, altar

Choose the best option the completes the sentences below:

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I	U	S	L	I	Y	W	M	I	G	R	A	T	E	D	I	R	G	A	K
T	B	U	G	N	N	Z	E	B	D	E	C	I	P	H	E	R	C	V	B
U	S	O	F	D	A	M	S	H	R	I	N	E	P	N	P	B	C	O	E
A	I	I	R	Y	S	O	M	V	D	W	V	Y	W	D	N	V	B	I	X
L	S	R	T	O	T	K	V	I	C	J	L	H	V	V	U	N	A	W	I
J	T	A	G	H	Y	Z	A	I	L	G	Y	K	J	D	I	E	Z	I	G
E	E	C	U	O	T	B	Q	G	O	G	F	A	M	I	N	E	B	H	Q
T	N	E	Q	B	Q	W	Z	R	O	T	H	N	B	I	O	H	P	A	L
E	C	R	U	E	I	N	E	P	Q	S	L	C	L	I	N	E	A	G	E
G	E	P	S	Z	B	I	Y	S	R	S	I	J	T	G	J	Q	F	A	T
C	M	A	L	L	H	Q	V	B	G	D	I	F	B	K	X	L	W	H	B

hieroglyphic
 shrine

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Up until about A.D. 900, the Maya were a more or less stable [16] **civilization** _____. Then they mysteriously abandoned the great centers of culture and [17] **began** _____ to **migrate** to other areas. Over the next several centuries the Maya fell victim to crop failures and the resulting [18] **famines** _____, and to invasion, periodic wars, and European diseases. The surviving [19] **cities** _____ had a **precarious** [20] **existence** _____, yet some endured Spanish conquests and internal conflict until 1697, when the last Mayan kingdom was taken by Spain.

A. famines
D. passed

B. century
E. calendar

C. crops
F. existence

- G. Perhaps
- J. jewelry
- M. Western
- P. details
- S. bounty
- H. settled
- K. athletic
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- T. ruins
- I. rituals
- L. calendars
- O. civilization
- R. began

24. In each line of text below there is one word that has been misspelled. Circle the misspelled word and then write the correct spelling of the word on the line on the right side of the page.

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Mayan artists produced stone sculptures, **karvings**, paintings, and exotic jewelry. **Maean** architecture included stone and earthen homes, pyramids, **chrines** devoted to Mayan gods and goddesses, and small arenas for **athletik** competition. Writings by Mayan scribes and priests recount the lives and deeds of nobles, astronomical details of the **tymes**, an elaborate mythology, and descriptions of religious **ritauls** and other **ceremonees**.

Up until about A.K. 900, the Maya were a more or less stable

- 1. **Maya**
- 2. **of**
- 3. **they**
- 4. **peoples**
- 5. **about**
- 6. **situated**
- 7. **the**
- 8. **To**
- 9. **corn**
- 10. **supply**
- 11. **Hidden**
- 12. **discovered**
- 13. **the**
- 14. **researchers**
- 15. **Christian**
- 16. **accuracy**
- 17. **more**
- 18. **determined**
- 19. **that**
- 20. **who**
- 21. **on**
- 22. **art**
- 23. **and**
- 24. **carvings**
- 25. **Mayan**
- 26. **shrines**
- 27. **athletic**
- 28. **times**
- 29. **rituals**
- 30. **ceremonies**
- 31. **D**

civilization. Then they **mysteriously** abandoned the great centers of culture and began to **migrate** to other areas. Over the **next** several centuries the Maya fell victim to crop **failures** and the resulting **famines**, **and** to invasion, periodic wars, and European diseases. The surviving cities had a **precarious** existence, yet **some** endured Spanish conquests **and** internal conflict until 1697, when the last Mayan kingdom was taken **by** Spain.

- 32. mysteriously
- 33. next
- 34. failures
- 35. and
- 36. some
- 37. and
- 38. by

Print the words from the list in the empty boxes. The shape of the word must match the shape of the boxes.

25.

r	i	t	u	a	l
---	---	---	---	---	---

30.

s	u	b	s	i	s	t	e	n	c	e
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

26.

f	a	m	i	n	e
---	---	---	---	---	---

31.

d	y	n	a	s	t	y
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

27.

h	i	e	r	o	g	l	y	p	h	i	c
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

32.

m	i	g	r	a	t	e
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

28.

l	i	n	e	a	g	e
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

33.

d	e	c	i	p	h	e	r
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

29.

p	r	e	c	a	r	i	o	u	s
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

34.

s	h	r	i	n	e
---	---	---	---	---	---

- 25. A _____ is a way of behaving or a series of actions which people regularly carry out in a particular situation, because it is their custom to do so.
- 26. _____ is a situation in which large numbers of people have little or no food, and many of them die.
- 27. a picture or symbol representing an object, concept, or sound
- 28. descent, family, line, succession
- 29. insecure, dangerous, uncertain, tricky
- 30. In _____ farming or _____ agriculture, farmers produce food to eat themselves rather than to sell.
- 31. A _____ is a period of time during which a country is ruled by members of the same family.
- 32. If people _____, they move from one place to another, especially in order to find work or to live somewhere for a short time.
- 33. If you _____ a piece of writing or a message, you work out what it says, even though it is very difficult to read or understand.
- 34. holy place, temple, sanctuary, altar