

Grade	1
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Flesch-Kincaid	6.9
Word Count	346
Title	Maya Art
Author	OER K-5 RLA

Maya Art

(1) The Maya cities flourished for about 700 years. During that time, the Maya created many types of art. The artwork included carvings, paintings, tapestries, ceramics, and even tiny figurines. It is believed that the art was created and appreciated by all the Maya, from the kings to common people.



(2) Maya murals have been discovered in some of the ruins. These large wall paintings show the daily life of the Maya people. There are scenes of people eating and doing daily activities. The artworks also include hieroglyphs, a writing system using pictures and symbols. The Maya may have painted artworks on paper, but that is unknown. The hot, humid weather and insects have left no traces of paper paintings.

(3) Although murals show weavers, only a very few small pieces of tapestries or other textiles have been discovered. The heat and humidity break down cloth fibers like they do paper fibers. The pieces that have been found show that the Maya were skilled at weaving. This skill has been passed down, connecting the weaving of ancient times to the weaving Maya do today.



(4) Maya made bowls, vases, and other pottery. Each piece was made by hand using clay mixed with limestone or ash from the area. The mixture was formed into jars, bowls, or other pieces of pottery. The Maya covered the pottery with minerals and water to color it before firing it or baking it. The oldest pieces are all one color, mostly black, red, or a creamy color. Over time, they created color patterns and designs. Later, the ceramics were painted. Many were painted with very detailed scenes.



(5) The Maya made tiny figurines. Some were painted. The figures likely were traded for other things. At one site, archeologists uncovered a workshop where many figurines were made. They are still studying this site to learn more.

(6) In every Maya city discovered, evidence of their art has been found. These items not only show how advanced society was but also give clues about the daily lives of the Maya people.

Item #	1
Discipline	ELA
Grade Level	1
Assessment Type	End of Unit
Unit/Domain Title	Early American Civilizations
Standard	TEKS 1.9.D.i Multiple genres: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--genres. The student recognizes and analyzes genre-specific characteristics, structures, and purposes within and across increasingly complex traditional, contemporary, classical, and diverse texts. The student is expected to: (D) recognize characteristics and structures of informational text, including (i) the central idea and supporting evidence with adult assistance.
Objective	Students will identify the central idea of a passage.
DOK Level	2
Question Type	Multiple Choice

PASSAGE

Element	Value
passage_link	
passage_title	Maya Art

QUESTION

Element	Value
stimulus	Refer to the passage, "Maya Art."
question_stem	What is this passage, "Maya Art" mostly about?
prompt	<i>Select the best answer.</i>
randomize_answer_choices	yes
answer_a	Early Maya art includes black, red, and creamy colors.
answer_b	The Maya painted wall paintings of daily activities.
answer_c	The Mayans created many types of artworks that provides clues about their lives.
correct_answer	c
correct_answer_rationale	The passage describes the types of artworks and what we learn from studying them.
incorrect_answer_1	a
incorrect_answer_1_rationale	This is a detail from the text but is not the central idea.
incorrect_answer_2	b
incorrect_answer_2_rationale	This is a detail from the text but is not the central idea.
scoring	Exact match; 1 point

Item #	2
Discipline	ELA
Grade Level	1
Assessment Type	End of Unit
Unit/Domain Title	Early American Civilizations
Standard	TEKS 1.6.F Comprehension skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student uses metacognitive skills to both develop and deepen comprehension of increasingly complex texts. The student is expected to: (F) make inferences and use evidence to support understanding with adult assistance.
Objective	Students will use text evidence to make inferences.
DOK Level	2
Question Type	Multiple choice

PASSAGE

Element	Value
passage_link	
passage_title	Maya Art

QUESTION

Element	Value
stimulus	Refer to the passage "Maya Art."
question_stem	What type of Maya art do archeologists mostly study?
prompt	Select the best answer.
Randomize_answer_choices	yes
answer_a	textiles and writings
answer_b	pottery and murals
answer_c	songs and dance
correct_answer	b
correct_answer_rationale	The passage says that pottery and murals have been found in every ruin discovered.
incorrect_answer_1	a
incorrect_answer_1_rationale	The passage says that the heat and humidity have broken down most art created on paper and cloth.
incorrect_answer_2	c
incorrect_answer_2_rationale	There is no mention of song and dance in the passage.
scoring	Exact match; 1 point

Item #	3
Discipline	ELA
Grade Level	1
Assessment Type	End of Unit
Unit/Domain Title	Early American Civilizations
Standard	<p>TEKS 1.9.D.i</p> <p>Multiple genres: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--genres. The student recognizes and analyzes genre-specific characteristics, structures, and purposes within and across increasingly complex traditional, contemporary, classical, and diverse texts. The student is expected to: (D) recognize characteristics and structures of informational text, including (i) the central idea and supporting evidence with adult assistance.</p>
Objective	Students will identify supporting information in a text that supports a central idea.
DOK Level	2
Question Type	Multiple Choice

PASSAGE

Element	Value
passage_link	
passage_title	Maya Art

QUESTION

Element	Value
stimulus	Refer to the passage “Maya Art.”
question_stem	According to the passage, where were murals painted?
prompt	<i>Select the best answer.</i>
Randomize_answer_choices	yes
answer_a	on bowls.
answer_b	on paper.
answer_c	on walls.
correct_answer	c
correct_answer_rationale	The passage describes murals as “large wall paintings.”
incorrect_answer_1	a
incorrect_answer_1_rationale	The passage says that older bowls were often one color and later pieces had detailed scenes, but a mural is more complex than a scene.
incorrect_answer_2	b
incorrect_answer_2_rationale	The passage does not mention murals on paper.
scoring	Exact match; 1 point

Item #	4
Discipline	ELA
Grade Level	1
Assessment Type	End of Unit
Unit/Domain Title	Early American Civilizations
Standard	<p>TEKS 1.11.D.vii</p> <p>Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process. The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and uses appropriate conventions. The student is expected to: (D) edit drafts using standard English conventions, including (vii) pronouns, including subjective, objective, and possessive cases.</p>
Objective	Students will identify object pronouns.
DOK Level	1
Question Type	Multiple Choice

PASSAGE

Element	Value
passage_link	
passage_title	Maya Art

QUESTION

Element	Value
stimulus	Refer to the passage “Maya Art.”
question_stem	<p>Listen to the following sentences.</p> <p>The Maya made bowls. The Maya used ___ to serve and eat food.</p> <p>Which pronoun correctly completes the sentence?</p>
prompt	<i>Select the best answer.</i>
randomize_answer_choices	yes
answer_a	it
answer_b	they
answer_c	them
correct_answer	c
correct_answer_rationale	The correct answer is “them.” This pronoun replaces the plural noun bowls.
incorrect_answer_1	a
incorrect_answer_1_rationale	<i>It</i> is a pronoun that replaces a singular noun.
incorrect_answer_2	b
incorrect_answer_2_rationale	<i>They</i> is a pronoun used to say who does an action, so it does not work in this sentence.

Item #	5
Discipline	ELA
Grade Level	1
Assessment Type	End of Unit
Unit/Domain Title	Early American Civilizations
Standard	<p>TEKS 1.9.D.i</p> <p>Multiple genres: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts—genres. The student recognizes and analyzes genre-specific characteristics, structures, and purposes within and across increasingly complex traditional, contemporary, classical, and diverse texts. The student is expected to: (D) recognize characteristics and structures of informational text, including (i) the central idea and supporting evidence with adult assistance.</p>
Objective	Students will recognize supporting evidence that supports a central idea.
DOK Level	2
Question Type	Multiple Choice

PASSAGE

Element	Value
passage_link	
passage_title	Maya Art

QUESTION

Element	Value
stimulus	Refer to the passage “Maya Art.”
question_stem	According to the passage, why were minerals important to the Maya art?
prompt	<i>Select the best answer.</i>
randomize_answer_choices	yes
answer_a	The Maya used minerals to trade for other things.
answer_b	The Maya used minerals to form pieces of pottery.
answer_c	The Maya used minerals and water to color pottery.
correct_answer	c
correct_answer_rationale	The passage says that the Maya mixed minerals and water before firing the pottery and that the minerals gave the pottery color.
incorrect_answer_1	a
incorrect_answer_1_rationale	The passage says that the Maya used pottery to trade for other things.
incorrect_answer_2	b
incorrect_answer_2_rationale	The passage says that the Maya used a mixture of clay and limestone to form pieces of pottery
scoring	Exact match; 1 point

Item #	6
Discipline	ELA
Grade Level	1
Assessment Type	End of Unit
Unit/Domain Title	Early American Civilizations
Standard	TEKS 1.11.D.vii Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process. The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and uses appropriate conventions. The student is expected to: (D) edit drafts using standard English conventions, including (vii) pronouns, including subjective, objective, and possessive cases.
Objective	Students will identify object pronouns.
DOK Level	1
Question Type	Multiple Choice

PASSAGE

Element	Value
passage_link	
passage_title	Maya Art

QUESTION

Element	Value
stimulus	Refer to the passage “Maya Art.”
question_stem	Listen to the following sentences. The Maya made a mixture. The Maya formed ____ into a bowl. Which pronoun correctly completes the sentence?
prompt	Select the best answer.
randomize_answer_choices	yes
answer_a	it
answer_b	they
answer_c	them
correct_answer	a
correct_answer_rationale	This pronoun replaces the singular noun <i>mixture</i> .
incorrect_answer_2	b
incorrect_answer_2_rationale	<i>They</i> is a pronoun used to say who does an action, so it does not work in this sentence.
incorrect_answer_1	c
Incorrect_answer_1_rationale	<i>Them</i> is a pronoun that replaces a plural noun.
scoring	Exact match; 1 point

Grade	1
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Flesch-Kincaid	4.9
Word Count	350
Title	The Maya Cities
Author (if applicable)	OER K-5 RLA

The Maya Cities



(1) A long time ago, the Maya lived in cities in the Yucatan peninsula. Many people who live there today are descendants of the Maya people. However, they no longer live in these ancient cities or play sports in the arenas the Maya people built. The jungle has crept in and covered

the buildings they built. For people interested in this history, it can make them wonder. What were the Maya like? How do we learn about the Maya who lived in these cities? Why did they leave the cities?

(2) People have learned about the Maya by looking at the ruins of the buildings and artifacts left behind. Archeologists can learn a lot by looking at these artifacts. Some of the things left behind are large, like buildings and pyramids. Other things are smaller, like artworks and items used in everyday life. Each item, large or small, is a clue about the people and their lives.



(3) Over 40 cities have been discovered. Although each city is different, some things are alike. The cities were very organized. Buildings were usually built in line with each other with open spaces between them.

(4) Similar building types have been found in each city. For example, sports arenas have been discovered because the Maya played a game with balls that went through hoops.



(5) There is stone near Maya cities. The Maya dug up this stone, usually limestone, and used it to build the buildings. They cut the stone into large blocks and stacked the blocks. Sometimes they stacked the blocks to make huge pyramids. Many of the discovered cities have pyramids that can still be seen today.



(6) Many of the pyramids and other buildings are covered with carvings. Some of these carvings included hieroglyphs, which are pictures of objects representing words. The Maya are the only people in this part of the Americas that had developed a system of writing. These carvings tell more about how the Maya lived in these cities.

(7) As archeologists find and study more, more information about the Maya will be learned.

Item #	7
Discipline	ELA
Grade Level	1
Assessment Type	End of Unit
Unit/Domain Title	Early American Civilizations
Standard	TEKS 1.6.G Comprehension skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student uses metacognitive skills to both develop and deepen comprehension of increasingly complex texts. The student is expected to: (G) evaluate details to determine what is most important with adult assistance.
Objective	Students will evaluate details read to determine importance.
DOK Level	2
Question Type	Multiple Choice

PASSAGE

Element	Value
passage_link	
passage_title	Maya Cities

QUESTION

Element	Value
stimulus	Refer to the passage "Maya Cities."
question_stem	What is this passage mostly about?
prompt	Select the best answer.
randomize_answer_choices	yes
answer_a	Ruins of Maya cities give clues about how the Maya lived.
answer_b	The Maya played a game with a ball in an arena.
answer_c	The Maya built pyramids out of stones cut into blocks.
correct_answer	a
correct_answer_rationale	The passage tells about the ruins archeologists have discovered and all of the information these ruins tell us about how they lived.
incorrect_answer_1	b
incorrect_answer_1_rationale	Although this is a detail from the passage, it is not the central idea.
incorrect_answer_2	c
incorrect_answer_2_rationale	Although this is a detail from the passage, it is not the central idea.
scoring	Exact match; 1 point

Item #	8
Discipline	ELA
Grade Level	1
Assessment Type	End of Unit
Unit/Domain Title	Early American Civilizations
Standard	<p>TEKS 1.6.F</p> <p>Comprehension skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student uses metacognitive skills to both develop and deepen comprehension of increasingly complex texts. The student is expected to: (F) make inferences and use evidence to support understanding with adult assistance.</p>
Objective	Students will use evidence to make inferences.
DOK Level	2
Question Type	Multiple Choice

PASSAGE

Element	Value
passage_link	
passage_title	The Maya Cities

QUESTION

Element	Value
stimulus	Refer to the passage “The Maya Cities.”
question_stem	How did the Maya play a game with the balls?
prompt	<i>Select the best answer.</i>
randomize_answer_choices	yes
answer_a	The Maya threw balls through hoops.
answer_b	The Maya bounced balls behind hoops.
answer_c	The Maya kicked balls in front of hoops.
correct_answer	A
correct_rationale	The picture showing the stone hoop the Maya used suggests that the Maya must have thrown the balls through the hoops because the hoops are in the air.
incorrect_answer1	B
incorrect_answer1_rationale	There is no text or visual evidence that the Maya had balls that bounced. The text also states that the balls were thrown through the hoops, not bounced behind the hoops.
incorrect_answer2	C
incorrect_answer2_rationale	Because the stone hoops pictured are in the air, it doesn't make sense that the Maya would have kicked the balls in front of the hoops.
scoring	Exact match; 1 point

Item #	9
Discipline	ELA
Grade Level	1
Assessment Type	End of Unit
Unit/Domain Title	Early American Civilizations
Standard	<p>TEKS 1.7.F</p> <p>Response skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student responds to an increasingly challenging variety of sources that are read, heard, or viewed. The student is expected to: (F) respond using newly acquired vocabulary as appropriate.</p>
Objective	Students will use newly acquired vocabulary to respond.
DOK Level	1
Question Type	Multiple Choice

PASSAGE

Element	Value
passage_link	
passage_title	The Maya Cities

QUESTION

Element	Value
stimulus	Refer to the passage, "The Maya Cities"
question_stem	What type of building has been found in Maya cities?
prompt	<i>Select the best answer.</i>
randomize_answer_choices	yes
answer_a	pyramid
answer_b	carvings
answer_c	artwork
correct_answer	a
correct_answer_rationale	The correct answer is "pyramid." The text states that the Maya stacked cut stone blocks to build pyramids and other buildings.
incorrect_answer_1	b
incorrect_answer_1_rationale	A carving was found on the pyramids and other buildings. Carvings are not considered a building in this passage.
incorrect_answer_2	c
incorrect_answer_2_rationale	An artwork is a creation; some were carved onto Maya buildings, but an artwork is not a building.
scoring	Exact match; 1 point

Item #	10
Discipline	ELA
Grade Level	1
Assessment Type	End of Unit
Unit/Domain Title	Early American Civilizations
Standard	TEKS 1.3.B Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking--vocabulary. The student uses newly acquired vocabulary expressively. The student is expected to: (B) use illustrations and texts the student is able to read or hear to learn or clarify word meanings.
Objective	Students will use the text to clarify word meanings.
DOK Level	2
Question Type	Multiple Choice

PASSAGE

Element	Value
passage_link	
passage_title	The Maya Cities

QUESTION

Element	Value
stimulus	Refer to the passage, "The Maya Cities."
question_stem	Listen to the following sentence from the passage. "Sometimes they stacked the blocks to make <u>huge</u> pyramids." Which word could replace the word <u>huge</u> ?
prompt	<i>Select the best answer.</i>
	yes
answer_a	giant
answer_b	long
answer_c	short
correct_answer	a
correct_answer_rationale	The pyramids were enormous. <i>Giant</i> is another word for <i>huge</i> .
incorrect_answer_1	b
Incorrect answer_1_rationale	<i>Long</i> is an adjective that describes length, not size in general.
incorrect_answer_2	c
Incorrect answer_2_rationale	<i>Short</i> isn't the best fit. Some pyramids may have been short, but it is not a word that means the same as <i>huge</i> .
scoring	Exact match; 1 point

Item #	11
Discipline	ELA
Grade Level	1
Assessment Type	End of Unit
Unit/Domain Title	Early American Civilizations
Standard	<p>TEKS 1.7.C</p> <p>Response skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student responds to an increasingly challenging variety of sources that are read, heard, or viewed. The student is expected to: (C) use text evidence to support an appropriate response.</p>
Objective	Students will use evidence from the text to support a response.
DOK Level	2
Question Type	Multiple Choice

PASSAGE

Element	Value
passage_link	
passage_title	The Maya Cities

QUESTION

Element	Value
stimulus	Think about what you learned in the passage "The Maya Cities."
question_stem	What evidence from the text shows that the Maya were organized?
prompt	Select the best answer.
randomize_answer_choices	yes
answer_a	Some of the things the Maya left behind were large, and some things were smaller.
answer_b	The buildings were built in line with each other with open spaces in between.
answer_c	The Maya dug up stone near Maya cities.
correct_answers	b
correct_answers_rationale	This detail suggests that the Maya followed a plan when building.
incorrect_answer_1	a
Incorrect answer_rationale_1	Although this is a detail in the passage, it does not suggest that the Maya were organized.
Incorrect answer_2	c
Incorrect answer rationale_2	This detail from the passage does not show that the Maya people were organized.
scoring	Exact match; 1 point

Item #	12
Discipline	ELA
Grade Level	1
Assessment Type	End of Unit
Unit/Domain Title	Early American Civilizations
Standard	TEKS 1.7.C Response skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student responds to an increasingly challenging variety of sources that are read, heard, or viewed. The student is expected to: (C) use text evidence to support an appropriate response.
Objective	Students will use text evidence to support a response.
DOK Level	3
Question Type	Multiselect

PASSAGE

Element	Value
passage_link	
passage_title	Maya Art
passage_title	The Maya Cities

QUESTION

Element	Value
stimulus	Think about what you learned in the passage, "The Maya Cities."
question_stem	What evidence from the passages shows that the Maya were an advanced society?
prompt	<i>Select THREE correct answers.</i>
randomize_answer_choices	yes
answer_a	The Maya people lived on farms in the Yucatan peninsula.
answer_b	The cities were very organized with buildings built in a line.
answer_c	The jungle has crept in and covered the buildings they made.
answer_d	The Maya developed a system of writing with pictures representing words.
answer_e	The Maya used minerals and water to color pottery before firing it.
correct_answers	B, D, E
correct_answers_rationale	The ability to organize, develop a communication system, and decorate pottery suggests that the Maya were an advanced society.
incorrect_answers	a, c
Incorrect answer_rationale	Although these are details in the passages, they do not give information about how advanced the people and society were. Also, the Maya people lived in cities, not farms.
scoring	Partial match; 1 point (.33 each)

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