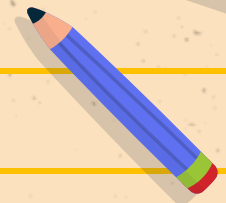
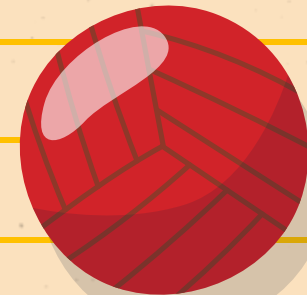
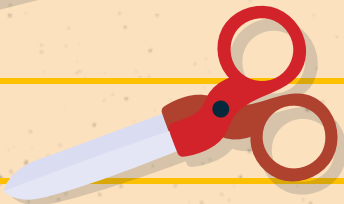
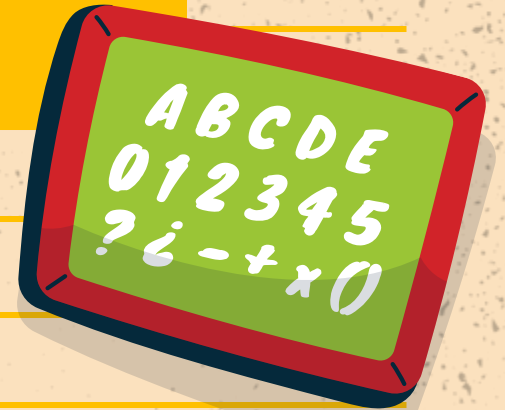


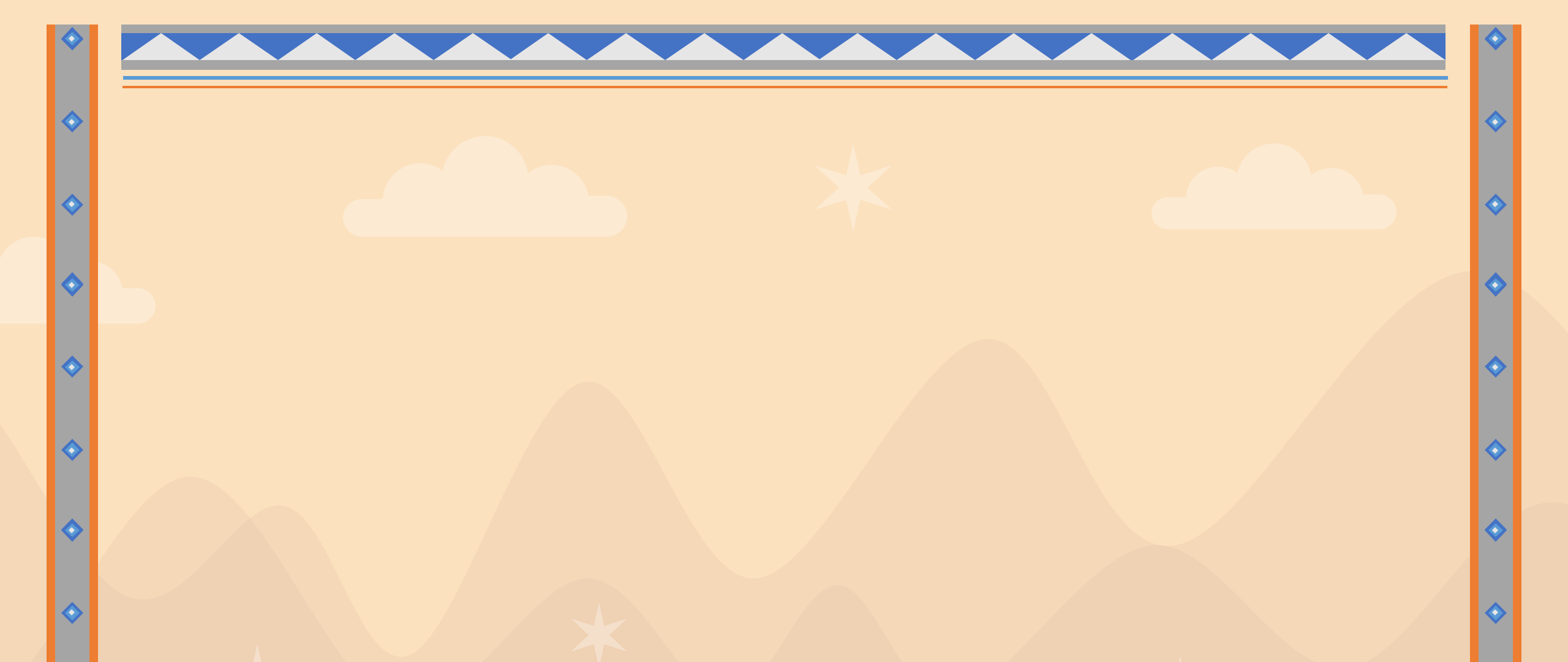
What Do You Know About The Mayans?

INVESTIGATE



2.2

The Olmecs & Mayans



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- **Compare & Contrast the Olmecs with the Mayans**
- **Analyze the culture and importance of the Mayan Empire**

The Olmecs

Soon people began to domesticate animals such as llamas for wool, villages grew, & cities developed

The first civilization in the area were The Olmecs

We know very little about these people, even their names (Aztecs called them Olmecs)

They developed temples & tombs rather than large cities

Olmec Influence

The Olmecs build large pyramid temples, made jade figurines, & famous giant statue heads

The artwork of the Olmecs would go on to inspire future Mesoamerican populations

Olmec trade would scatter across the continent influencing the Aztec & Maya

Olmec people even invented a type of ball game that used a heavy rubber ball

Cultures & Gods

Olmec would introduce a god of maize & the snake god **Quetzalcoatl** (Kukulcan)

Olmecs developed a calendar and a number system

The traditions of priest leadership & religious rituals were used in later civilizations

Mayan Landscape

The Mayan culture is located on the Yucatan Peninsula in Central America

The Mayans constructed massive cities made of stone pyramids with populations reaching about 50,000

Lords of cities would oversee irrigation constructions to drain swamps, create ditches, or collect rainwater from mountain terraces

Glyphic Writing- carved & painted symbols used to communicate & trace the history of of a people

Mayan Advancement

Stone masons would construct large stone structures near major centers of worship to honor the gods & lords

Mayans constructed a complex astronomical calendar for agriculture & religious purposes

They also created a form of math that included the concept of zero, something rare at this time in the world

The Maya

The Maya civilization built large cities such as El Mirador in Guatemala & flourished in the Yucatan Peninsula

The Maya began **slash & burn agriculture**- The cutting down of forests, burning the remains to create farmland

They also developed raised lifts to lift crops out of the annual floodwaters

They never formed an empire, just a collection of small city-states in the region

The Maya

City-states would maintain contact via economic exchange via the sea or packed earth roads

Most of the Maya were farmers who paid taxes on food & worked on construction projects

Some cities had slave workers who were commoners captured in war

Mayan City-States

The most important Mayan City was Chichen Itza, located in the northern region of the Yucatan Peninsula

Mayans would use elaborate tattoos, clothing, & jewelry to set themselves apart in social structures

It was believed that lords spoke directly to cosmic beings & sacrifice & blood-letting helped them connect to the gods

Cenote (seh-no-tay)- a large, round, naturally occurring deep well located near the city, it was used for water sacrifices



Chichen Itza

Chichen Itza ruled over the Yucatan until around 1221, when the Maya city-states began to fall

By the time the Spaniards arrived, Yucatan populations had dispersed into lesser kingdoms with limited political authority



Mayan Culture

Mayans followed a polytheistic religion which included belief that each person's soul is associated with an animal

Palaces & temples served as town centers for rulers & priests to perform rituals

Stela- Tall stone monuments preserving the images of ruler, warriors, & gods

Mayans created a hieroglyphic writing system & books made from bark paper

Mayan Women

Elite women had an important role in Maya society, such as Lady Wac-Kan-Ahaw who ruled the city of Naranjo until she crowned her son Pacal II

Women maintained household alters & produced ritual meals

The Mayans had goddesses such as the Moon Goddess

Elite women sanctioned warfare & were often seen in glyphs alongside their husbands

The slide features a light orange background with stylized white clouds and stars. It is framed by a grey border with orange lines and blue diamond patterns. The title 'Mayan Culture' is in a large, bold, black serif font. Below it, two text boxes provide additional information: 'Terrace Agriculture' and 'Cah'.

Mayan Culture

Terrace Agriculture- farm plots raised on terraces on hillsides or mountains

Cah- extended Mayan kin networks, women typically would engage in weaving or ceramic work within these

Astronomy & Decline

Mayans developed astrology & the study of stars, believed the heavens influence humans

They developed a 365-solar calendar & a 260-day religious calendar

Soon the cities would decline & by the time Spain arrived most Mayans were farmers

About 2 million Maya survive in Guatemala & Southern Mexico today