

# MAYAN EXERCISES

## A – exercises

1. Look at a map of the world. Try to find the area that the Mayan culture covered during its glory period. Try to find where the descendents of the Maya live today.
2. Mayan culture spread rapidly, but there is little left of what was once a very powerful culture. Make a timeline with dates and indicate when the rise and fall of Mayan culture took place.
3. The Mayan culture was highly developed. Give examples of this.
4. What did the world look like according to the ancient Maya? Try to be as complete as possible in your answer.
5. The Mayas believed in many gods. Choose two of these and write down everything you know about them.
6. The Maya believed that they needed to honor their gods. How did they do this?
7. What do you think the gods Tepeu and Gucumatz looked like?
8. What was the reason that Tepeu and Gucumatz tried to put beings on earth?
9. Explain how apes were created according to the Maya.
10. Try to explain the Maya creation story as an evolutionary process.
11. Who were the ancestors of the Quiche people?
12. What similarities do you see between the Maya creation myth and those of other cultures?

## B - exercises

Look at a few websites that deal with this culture and choose one or two that have images, sounds or text that you think are useful for preparing your presentation. Make a summary or a sketch of the Mayan creation myth on a piece of flip chart paper. As much as possible, try to use the illustrations and images you found on the internet.

Choose one of the following exercises:

1. Go to the internet (or elsewhere) and find images from Mayan culture. Make a collage with on the one side examples of their highly developed culture (architecture, pottery, textiles, sculptures, hieroglyphs, science, etc.). On the other side make drawings or images of ritual sacrifice. During the class presentation try to address the issue whether the Maya were violent or not. In advance, try to think of arguments that would support each opinion. Do not forget to use the creation myth when thinking of these arguments.

or

2. Try to show in some way (this can be by means of a play, but also by means of drawings or collages) the three or four types of people that Tepeu and Gucumatz created. Describe, tell about in story form, or play how the first three did not survive and explain why the people that were finally created, and were accepted by the gods, were not perfect.

## C - exercises

What do you think about Tepeu and Gucumatz? Name as many "personality characteristics" as you can.

