

THE AMERICAS – THE MAYA – DUE _____

Task - Create a booklet showing the history and culture of the Maya civilization.

PAGE 1 – FRONT PAGE

Create a title for your booklet.

Include a map showing the location of the Mayan Civilization.

Include at least 1 picture showing one aspect of the Mayan Civilization or culture.

PAGE 2 – MAYAN RELIGION

Write a short summary about Mayan religious beliefs.

Show pictures of at least two major Mayan gods or goddesses.

Summarize and show how the Mayans worshipped their gods and goddesses.

PAGE 3 – CITIES

Research and write about the buildings in one of these Mayan cities:

1 – Tikal

2 – Palenque

3 – Chichen Itza

PAGE 4 – ACHIEVEMENTS

Summarize and illustrate Mayan achievements and discoveries in the following areas:

1 – Astronomy

2 – Time keeping

3 - Math

PAGE 4 – DECLINE

Summarize and illustrate the possible causes of the decline of the Mayan civilization.

Remember to write your name and class at the bottom of the page.

To learn more about the Mayans for your project go to **Youtube** and type in the following search words:

Engineering an Empire – The Maya

Lost Kings of the Maya

The Mayan Empire – For Kids

THE AMERICAS – THE MAYA – DUE _____

Task - Create a poster showing the history and culture of the Maya civilization.

REQUIREMENT 1 - TITLE

Create a title for your poster.

Include a map showing the location of the Mayan Civilization as well as its major cities and trade items.

REQUIREMENT 2 – MAYAN RELIGION

Write a short summary about Mayan religious beliefs.

Show pictures of at least two major Mayan gods or goddesses.

Summarize and show how the Mayans worshipped their gods and goddesses.

REQUIREMENT 3 – CITIES

Research and write about the buildings in one of these Mayan cities:

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REQUIREMENT 4 – ACHIEVEMENTS

Summarize and illustrate Mayan achievements and discoveries in the following areas:

1 – Astronomy

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REQUIREMENT 5 – DECLINE

Summarize and illustrate the possible causes of the decline of the Mayan civilization.

Remember to write your name and class clearly on the back of your poster.

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Engineering an Empire – The Maya

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Around 4,000 years ago, people in Mesoamerica began to develop the first farming communities. Some of these villages grew into small towns and, by around 2,000 years ago, the first cities. Between 250 and 900 AD the Mayan civilization enjoyed its classic age, an era during which Mayan civilization spread across the Yucatan peninsula. Around 40 large cities, some with populations of over 50,000 people existed during this time. Some of these cities were allies by most were enemies, often going to war with each other for resource such as obsidian, jade, cacao, and cotton, or for control of trade routes.



The Maya worshipped hundreds of different gods and goddesses which represented different aspects of their daily lives. Leading deities included:

- **Itzamna**– The lord of the heavens and creator of the universe.
- **Chaac** – The god of rain and fertility.
- **Ah Mun** – The god of maize, farming, and the arts.
- **Ah Puch** – The god of death who ruled over the underworld.
- **Ek Chuah** – The god of war and sacrifice.
- **Ix Chel** – The goddess of childbirth, fertility, and medicine.



The Maya believed that kings and priests were able to communicate with their gods in order to ask their help. Key to this was blood, which the gods needed to keep themselves, and the world, strong. All Maya gave blood by piercing their tongues or other parts of the body. This was especially important during ceremonies such as weddings and funerals or the celebration of a birth. On some occasions, such as the coronation of a new king, even larger amounts of blood were needed. During these

times, Mayan priests made human sacrifices by cutting the hearts out of victims – often captured prisoners of war. These hearts were then burned and offered to statues of the gods on the tops of the Mayan temples.



Mayan cities each had their own rulers, governments, and armies. To show off their power and wealth, rulers ordered the construction of large public buildings and temples. In the city of Palenque, a huge temple was built to honor the achievements of a ruler called Pacal. This temple was decorated with carvings which recorded his life and battles. The city of Chichen Itza was home to a famous temple to the god Kukulcan. The pyramid's steps added up to 365, the number of days in the Mayan calendar. The city of Tikal was famous for its large number of steep-sided temples – some of which were over 200 feet tall.



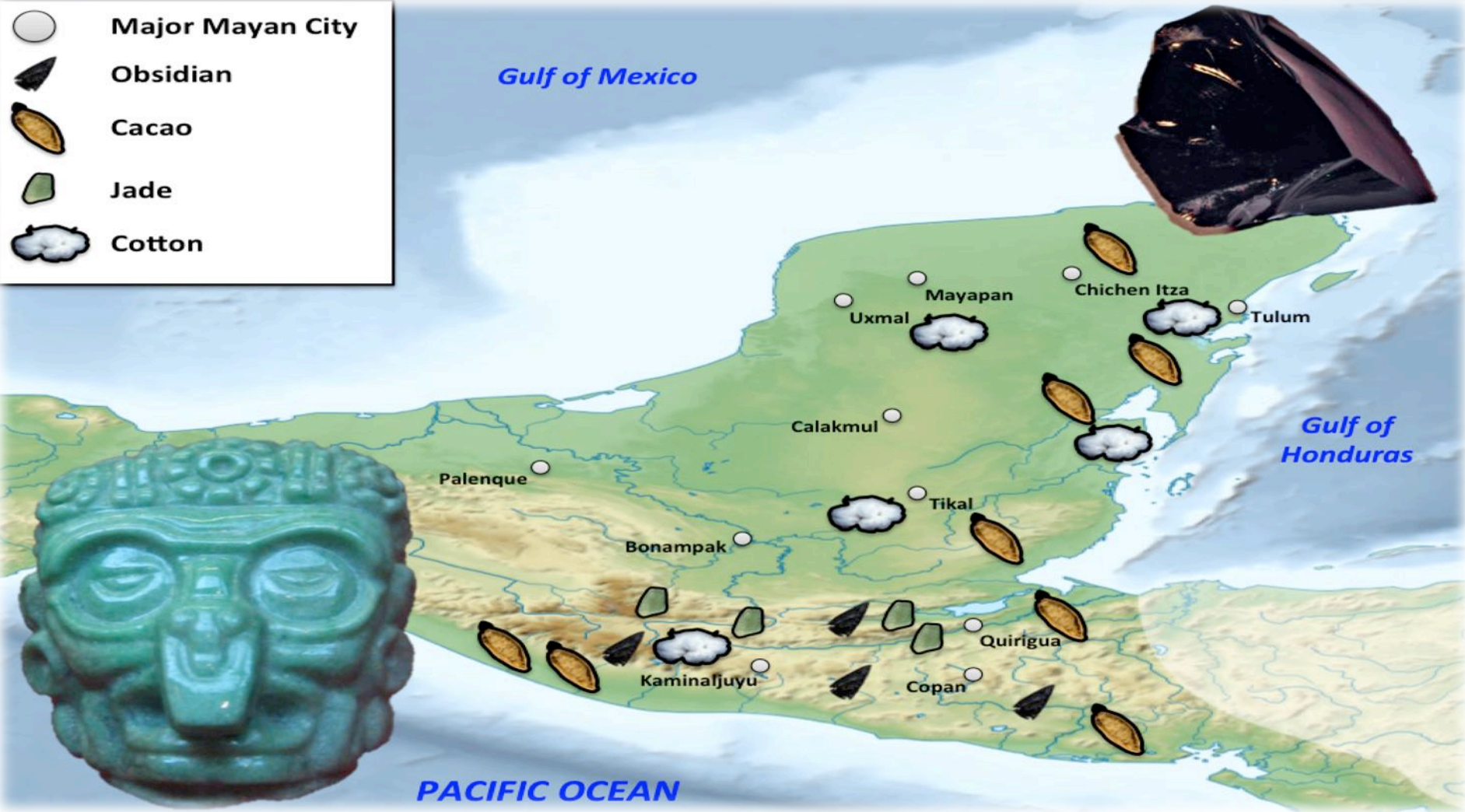
Along with architecture, the Maya were also interested in mathematics and science. Many cities had observatories where priests studied the movements of the stars and planets. Using this information they worked out the length of a year and how to predict eclipses of the moon and sun. It was also used to develop two different calendars – a religious one and agricultural one. The Maya also had an advanced number system which included one of the earliest uses of a symbol for zero.



By around 900 AD, the Mayan civilization began to decline and eventually collapse. Cities lost most of their populations as people moved back into the countryside. Historians have several explanations for why this took place:

- **Warfare** – Fighting between cities may have increased causing the destruction of valuable farmland and making it difficult to transport food to the cities.
- **Soil Degradation & Deforestation** – The Maya may have harmed their soil by growing the same crops year after year. Each year would have produced smaller harvests. Cities would then have gone to war to gain more land for themselves but this would only have done more damage.
- **Climate Change** – A change in weather patterns may have caused droughts and famines. Most Maya cities relied on summer rains to provide 90% of their water supplies. If these failed to come then it would be hard to grow enough crops to feed everyone.

	Major Mayan City
	Obsidian
	Cacao
	Jade
	Cotton



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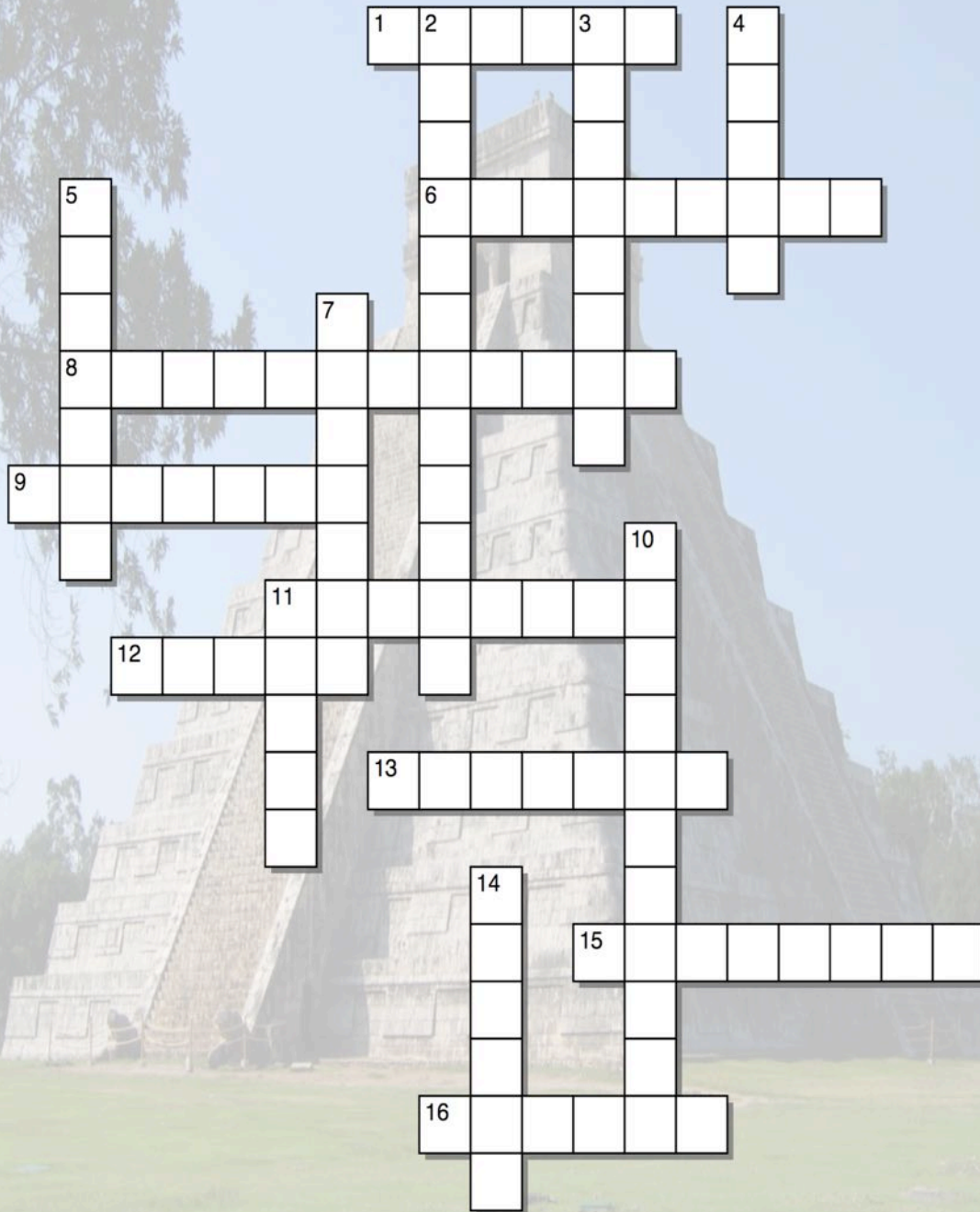
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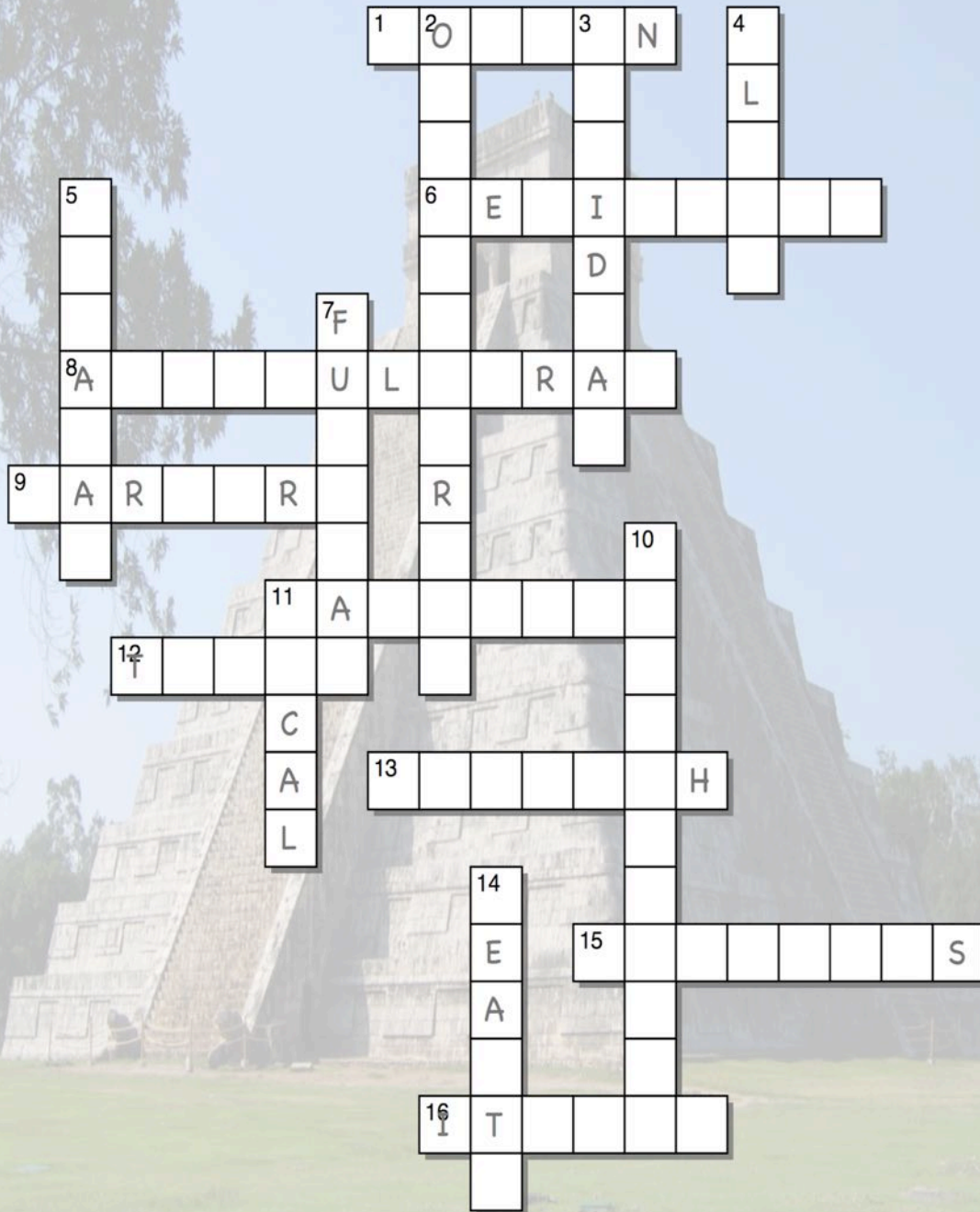


Across

1. Fiber used to make cloth.
6. One type of Mayan calendar.
8. One type of Mayan calendar.
9. One explanation for the decline of Mayan civilization.
11. Important Mayan city.
12. City noted for its tall temples.
13. God of war.
15. Climate change may have caused these.
16. Creator of the universe.

Down

2. Building for studying the stars.
3. Rock used to make blades.
4. What Mayan gods needed to stay strong.
5. Peninsula where the Mayan civilization grew.
7. Ceremony during which blood would be given.
10. Region between North and South America.
11. Famous ruler of Palenque.
14. These would be cut out of victims during human sacrifices.

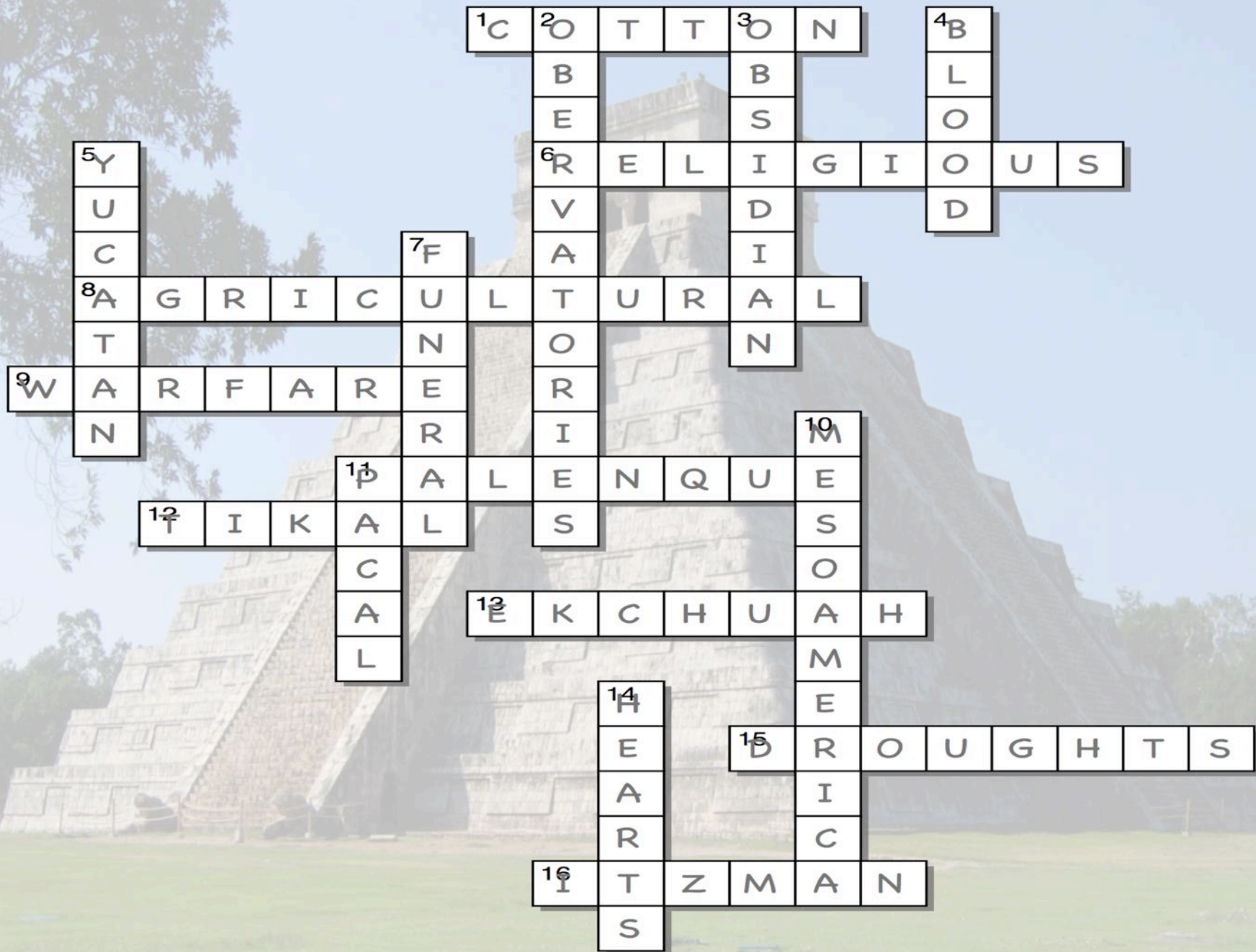






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-  Obsidian
-  Cacao
-  Jade
-  Cotton

Gulf of Mexico



Gulf of Honduras

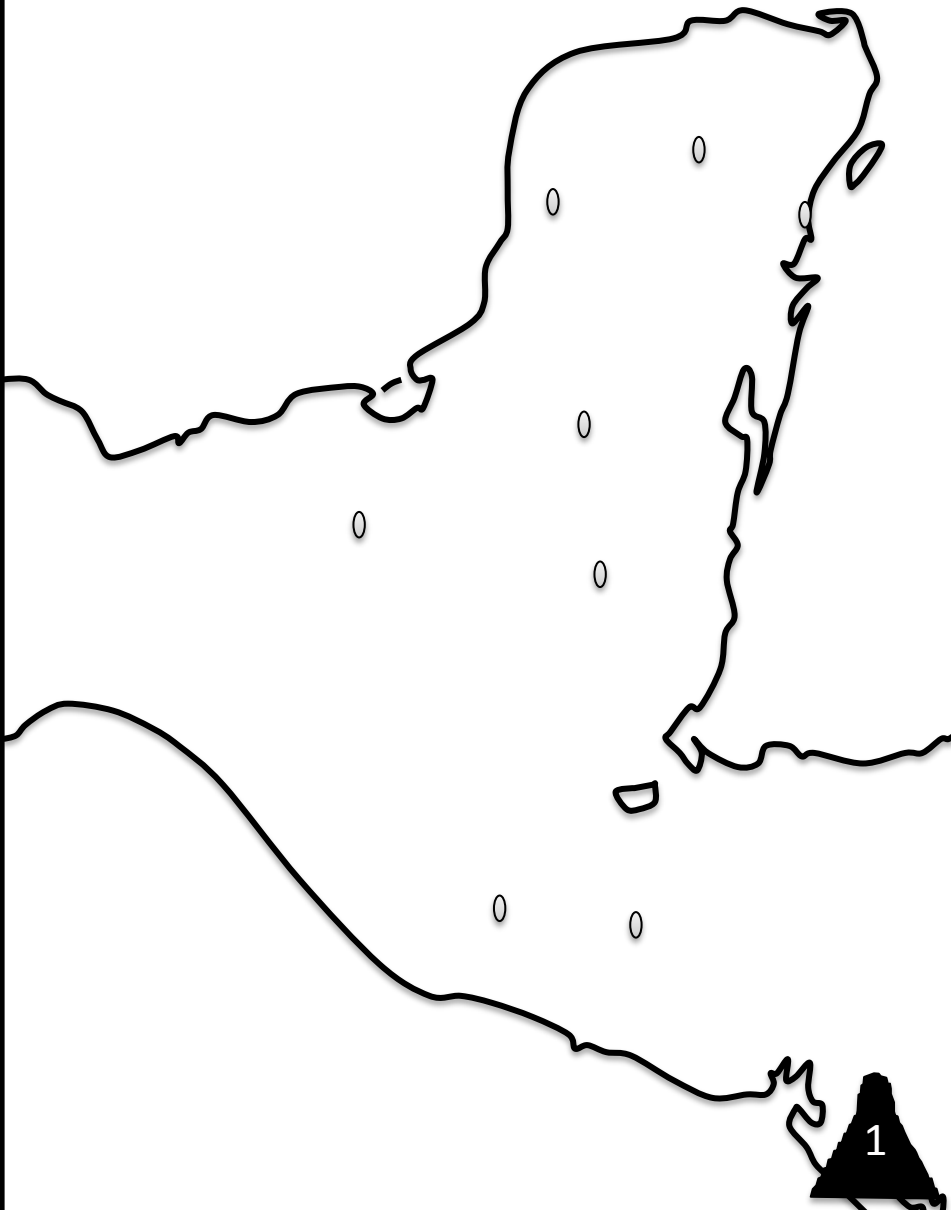
PACIFIC OCEAN



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Name _____ Class _____

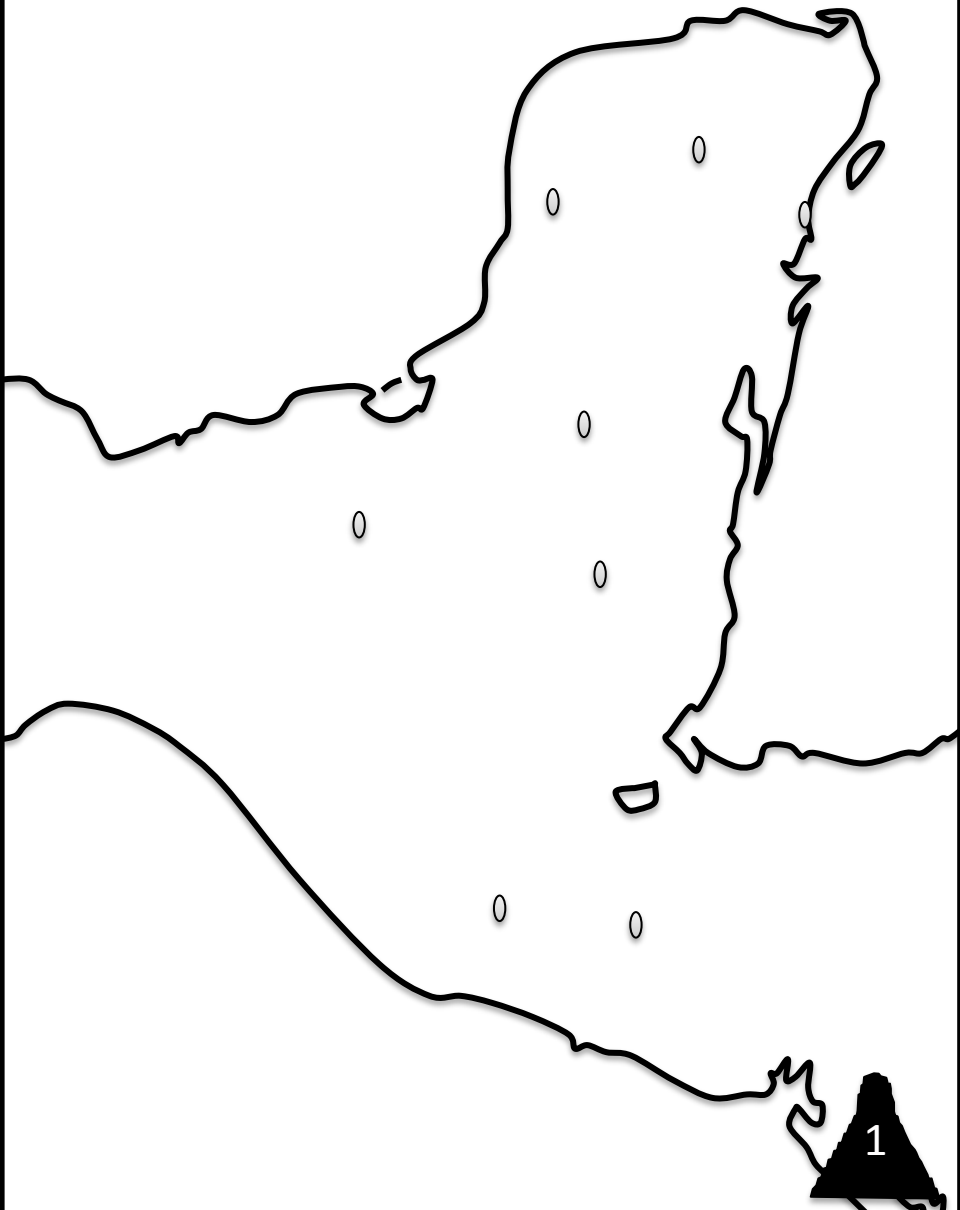




MAYAN ACHIEVEMENTS

THE MAYA

MAYAN DECLINE



4

Name _____ Class _____

1

MAYAN RELIGION

MAYAN CITIES





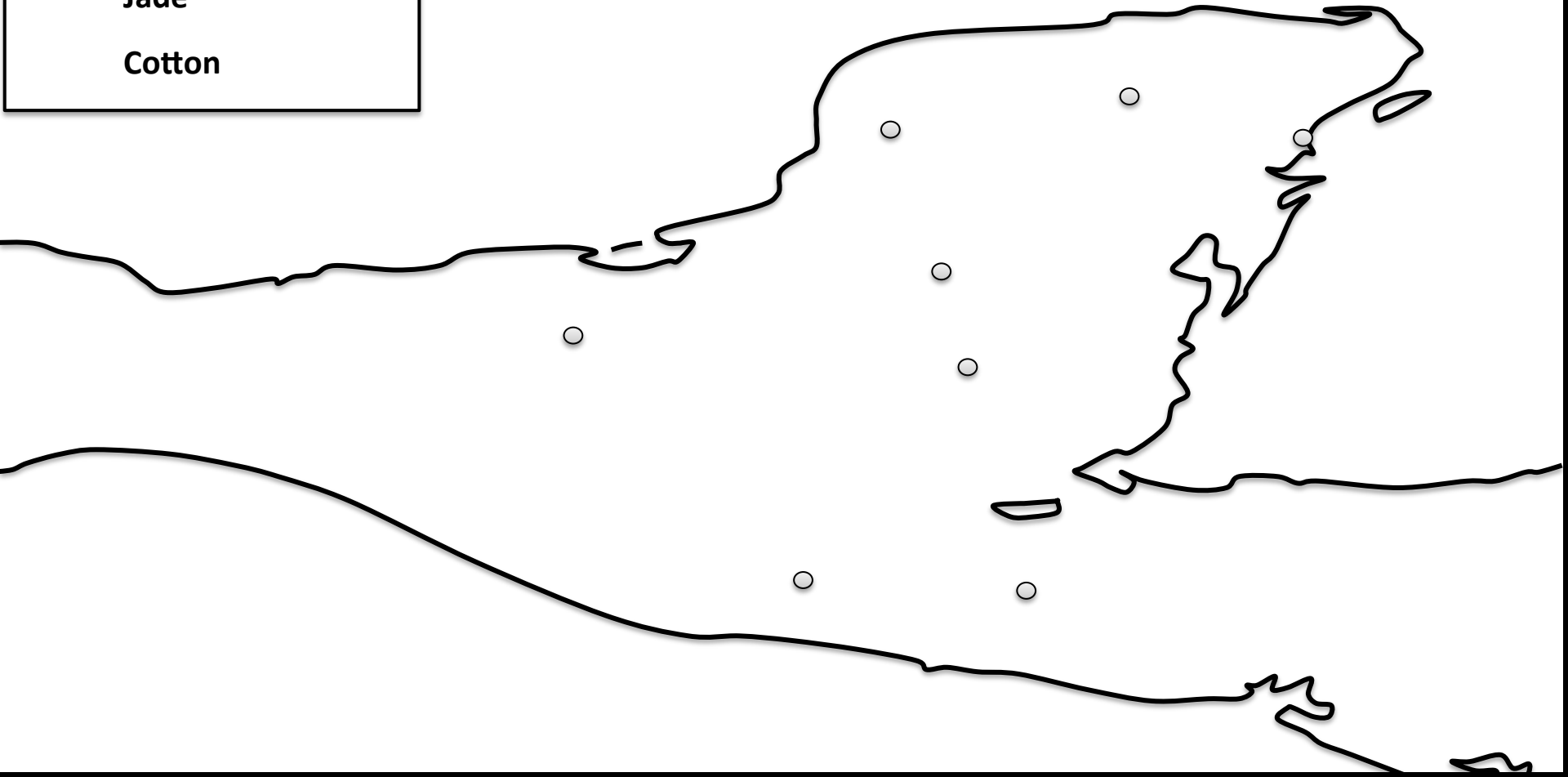
Major Mayan City

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MAYAN RELIGION

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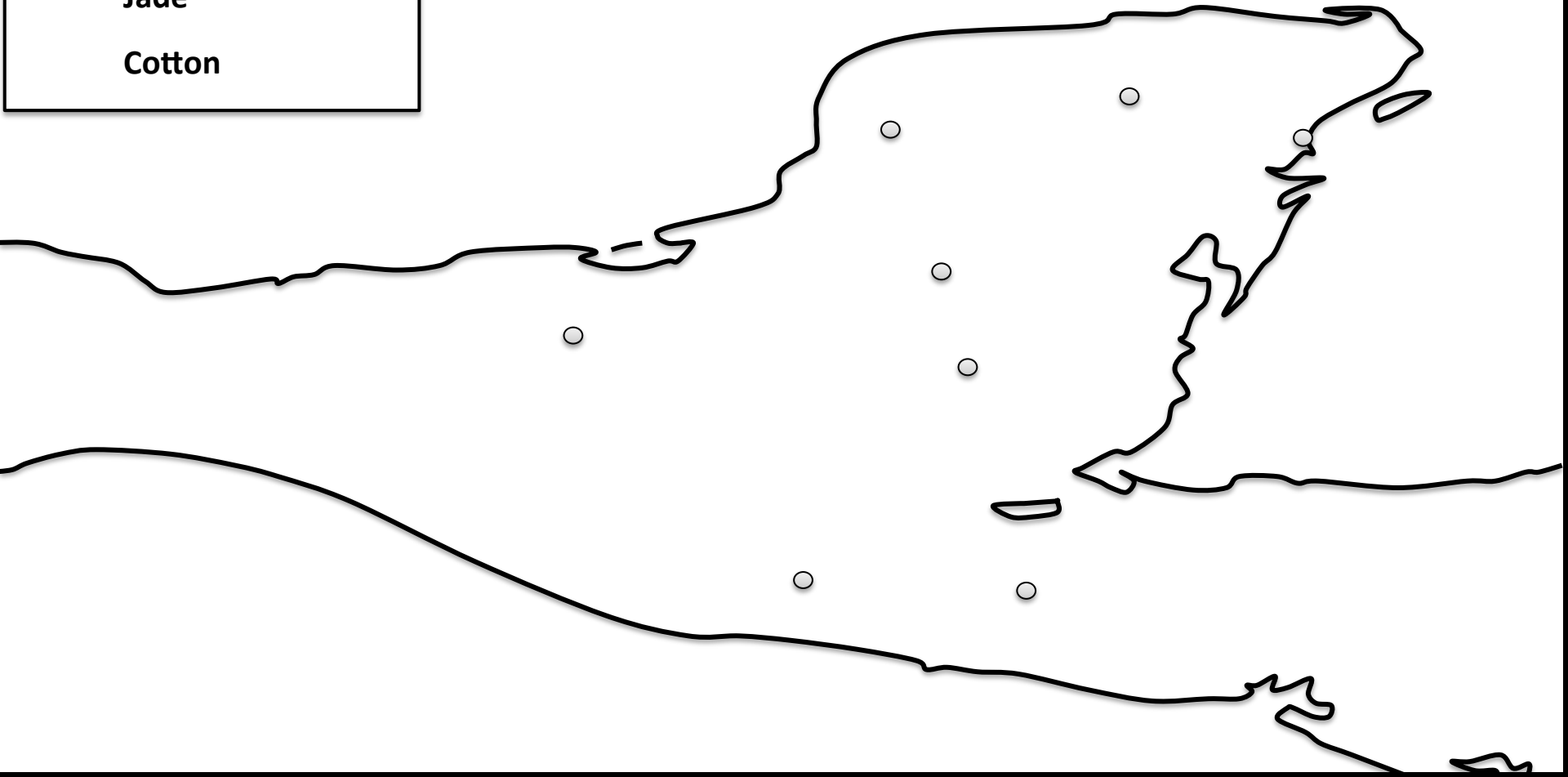
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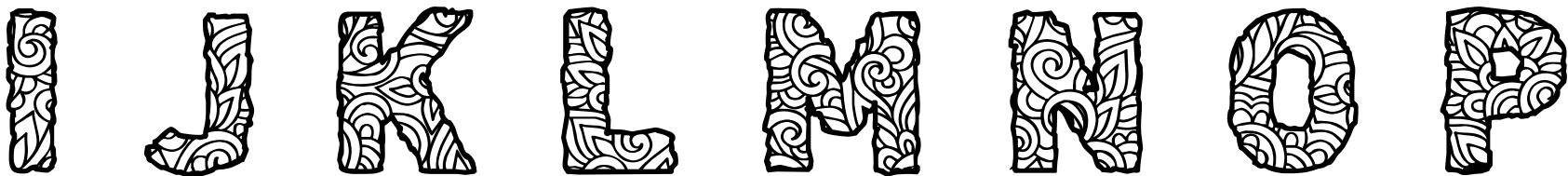
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MAYAN DECLINE

MAYAN ACHIEVEMENTS





Yucatan Peninsula From Space



Itzman – Creator God



Chac – Rain God



Ah Mun - Maize God



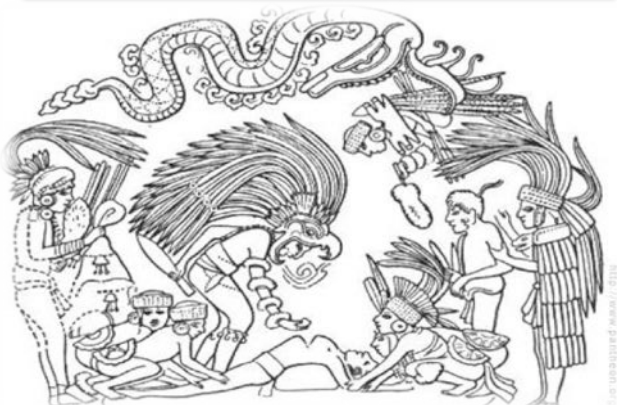
Ah Puch – God of Death



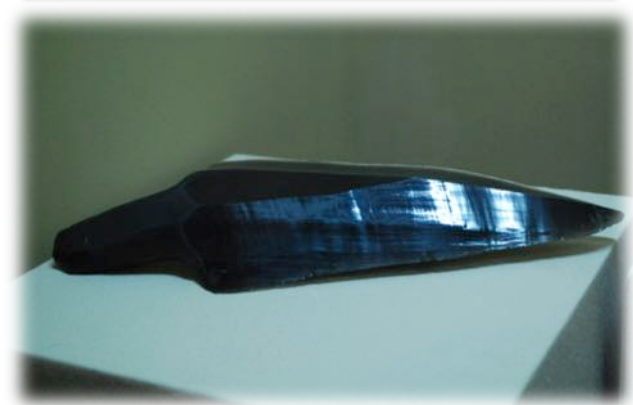
Ek Chuah – God of War



Ix Chel – Goddess of Childbirth



Mayan Sacrifice



Obsidian Blade



Mayan Warriors With Prisoner



Temple of the Inscriptions - Palenque



Palenque – Palace Ruins



Temple of Kukulcan – Chichen Itza



Observatory – Chichen Itza



Ball Court – Chichen Itza



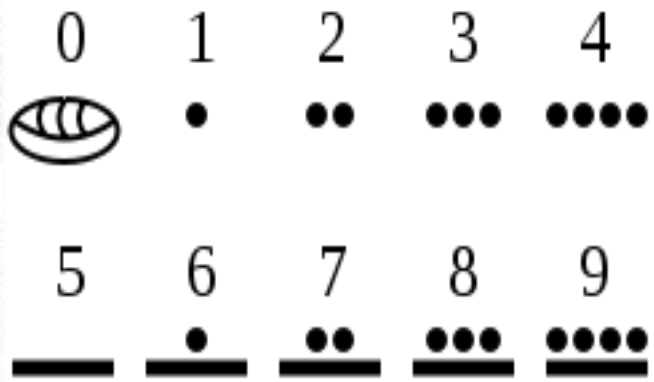
Tikal Plaza



Mayan Calendar



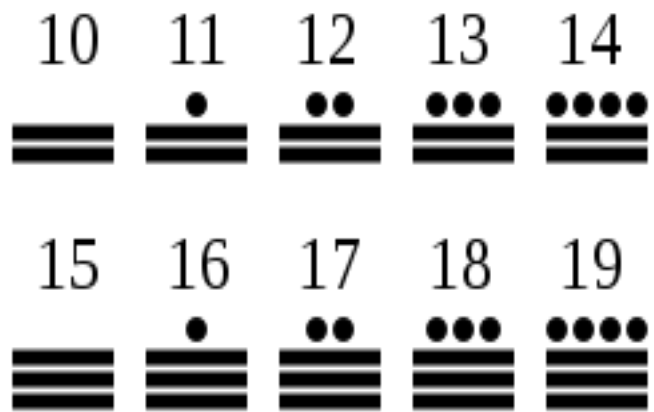
Mayan Zodiac



Ruined Mayan Temple



Mayan Warrior Statue



Mayan Number System



Mayan Prisoners & Ruler



Mayan Ruins



Yucatan Peninsula From Space



Itzman – Creator God



Chaac – Rain God



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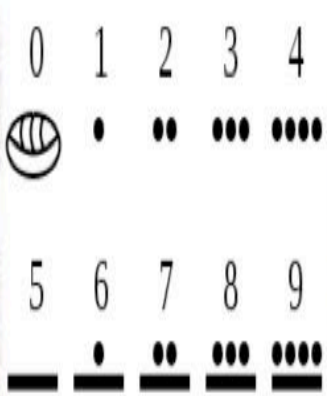
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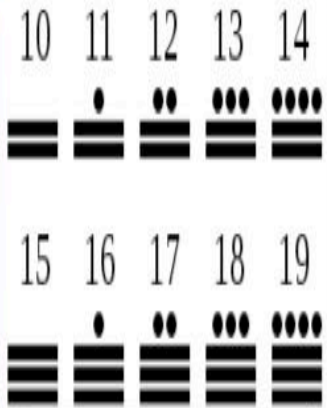
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