Agriculture in the lowlands

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Objective

• Discuss the agricultural techniques used in the Maya lowlands
Where are the lowlands located?
Let's review some features of the lowlands

- More Rainfall
- Cenotes are common
- Tropical and subtropical climate
- More rivers
How would you do agriculture in this?
How about this?
Raised fields

- Raised fields are large artificial platforms of soil created to protect crops from flooding.
How was it built?

• Essentially big piles of dirt

• Created by digging into the top soil and raising a large, low platform

• They placed mud bricks to create walls

• Planted trees on the sides as walls
Benefits of the raised fields

- The organic-rich soils in the old canals was very fertile.
- The area was very wet but stable
Hey pay attention in class!!
If they were living in subtropical climate what other forms of agriculture did they practice?
Yes slash and burn!

- involves cutting and burning of trees and plants in forests to create fields
- Cutting is the slash part
- Placing fire to it is the burn part
What are the benefits of it?

- slash and burn was quite easy
- Ashes made the soil rich in nutrients