Belizean History - Semester 2

1. MIGRATION
   1. Early Settlers (Americas)
   2. Theory 1 - Glacial Maximum
   3. Theory 2 - Pacific
   4. Paleo Indians
   5. Archaic

2. ORIGINS
   1. Development of Civilization
   2. Who are the Maya?
   3. Language
   4. Geography
   5. Environment
   6. Historical periods

3. SURVIVAL
   1. Agriculture (techniques)
   2. Subsistence economy
   3. Ecological Adaptation
   4. Productivity
   5. Trade system

4. SOCIETY
   1. Social Life
   2. Governance
   3. Authority
   4. Caste System

5. BELIEFS
   1. World view
   2. Order and control
   3. Creation story
   4. Religion

6. THINKING
   1. Interpreting the Skies
   2. Astronomy
   3. Calendars

7. CREATIVITY
   1. Mathematics
   2. Writing
   3. Art
   4. Architecture

8. COLLAPSE
   1. Decline of civilization
   2. Environmental
   3. Socio-political
SURVIVAL

1. Agriculture (techniques)
2. Subsistence economy
3. Ecological Adaptation
4. Productivity
5. Trade system
Homework -
1. Belize Map showing 10 Ancient Maya sites

2. Design a timeline showing the Maya Periods (pre/classic/post)
Key Words

agriculture,
arboriculture,
bee keeping,
Maize/corn,
ecological adaptation,
mountainous,
swampy,
subsistence economy,
prestige economy,
trade,
barter,
chinampas,
terracing, slash and burn,
Maya subsistence is categorized into three groups:

**Hunting**
deer, tapir, birds, rabbits, monkey

**Animal husbandry**
dogs, turkeys, Muscovy ducks, doves

*Early Classic ceramic (250 AD - 600 AD)*
Agriculture

maize, beans, squash, cacao, chilli

Arboriculture

is the cultivation, management, and study of individual trees, shrubs, vines, and other perennial woody plants. It is both a practice and a science.

bee keeping
We often think of the rainforest as untouched by humans, or "virgin forest." In reality, it can be understood as the garden of the ancient Maya: the product of millennia of management by forest gardeners who cultivated the cycle of milpa, forest garden, and forest. In fact, 90% of plants in the forest are useful to humans, indicating considerable human influence. The Maya Forest remains the second most biodiverse place in the world (the Amazon forest is the first).

**go to**  [http://mayaforestgardeners.org/forestgardening.php](http://mayaforestgardeners.org/forestgardening.php)

**click:** dominant species of the Maya Forest
Choose a plant or tree that grows in the Maya Forest, print or draw a picture of it and write the information on it. Put in your notebook.
Farming was difficult in the regions they occupied because it included dense forest, little water surface, swampy areas and poor soils. The Maya developed different agricultural techniques in order to adopt to the different environments.

- Mountainous highlands- they built terraces or earth steps into the hills in order to create more flat land for planting
- Swampy lowlands- they constructed raised earth platforms surrounded by canals that drained off the extra water. (chinampas- raise fields)
Ecological adaptation

- **Irrigation** was also practiced
- Densely forested lowlands- they used **slash-and-burn** agriculture (still being used in Belize). They cleared the land by cutting and burning plants and trees. Then they planted their plants. (they used a vast amount of land)

They used the **fallow** system- land left for 5-6 years then they came back to reuse it.

Many scientists believe that drought and bad use of the fallow system caused the Maya Collapse
The primary food was **Maize or corn**, and other typical Mayan crops include, beans, squash, and chilli peppers (sources of healthful balanced diet filled with nutrients)

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**Maize God**

No god was more important to the Maya than the Maize God. He is the ideal of beauty, always handsome and young. His head tapers like an ear of corn, and his hair flows like corn silk. The slightest breeze rustles the leaves--and the Maize God dances. Corn's cycle of planting, growth, harvesting, and replanting is the cycle of life itself--birth, death, rebirth.
Maya emerged because they needed a trade system—stone, obsidian, jade, axe, weapons, mano, metate—prestige economy—demands of the elite.

- The trade network led to having managers thus forming a market system (interaction, competition)
- Barter began to occur—either exchanging products or with the use of cocoa seeds
- Feasting became important (gift giving)

Trade

PRODUCTS

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SALT
JADE
CACAO
OBSIDIAN
COTTON
FEATHERS
BASALT (slate)
CERAMICS
TOOLS
ANIMAL SKINS
HONEY
10 Key Maya Sites In Belize

- Santa Rita
- Cerros
- Cuello
- Lamanai
- Moho Caye
- Xunantunich
- Caracol
- Nim Li Punit
- Lubaantun
Rain God Chac and Mood Godess IxChel exchange Cacao

250 to 900 CE • Classic Maya Civilization
Cacao beans were used throughout Mesoamerica as currency, but the artefacts that survive from the golden age of the Maya suggest that the consumption of chocolate was, as for most of its subsequent history, restricted to the society's elite. This literate civilization appears to have once had entire libraries of books, although only four survived the Spanish occupation (the Spanish arrived and decided it was a good idea to burn all the books). In two of those, mention cacao often, as does the Popol Vuh, the sacred book of the Quiché Maya of Guatemala, which was transcribed into the Spanish alphabet shortly after the Europeans arrived (but does not survive in the original). The tombs of Maya nobility have been found to contain pottery vessels bearing the hieroglyph for cacao and depictions of the process of its preparation. Analysis of the traces of their contents indicates that they probably contained the drink. This evidence doesn't provide a real way to know all the forms in which the Maya consumed chocolate, but it seems to have been most common as a drink. The drink was made by mixing the roasted, ground cacao beans with water, flavouring it with herbs or spices (chilli was common) and then agitating the mixture until foamy by pouring it from one vessel to another. One of the variations might have involved adding honey to chocolate, but the Maya did not commonly sweeten the drink, as we do now almost without exception.

http://www.chocolate.org/timeline/