Name _____   Date: _____

Course: US History/Ms. Brown   **Homeroom:**

7th Grade US History
Standard #7H119 – Do Now – Day #19

Aims: SWBAT identify and describe the major contributions/characteristics of a Mesoamerican Culture: The Maya Native Americans

DO NOW

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete and historically accurate sentences. You must attempt each question, there should be absolutely no blank spaces. Be sure to provide examples and evidence to support your answers.
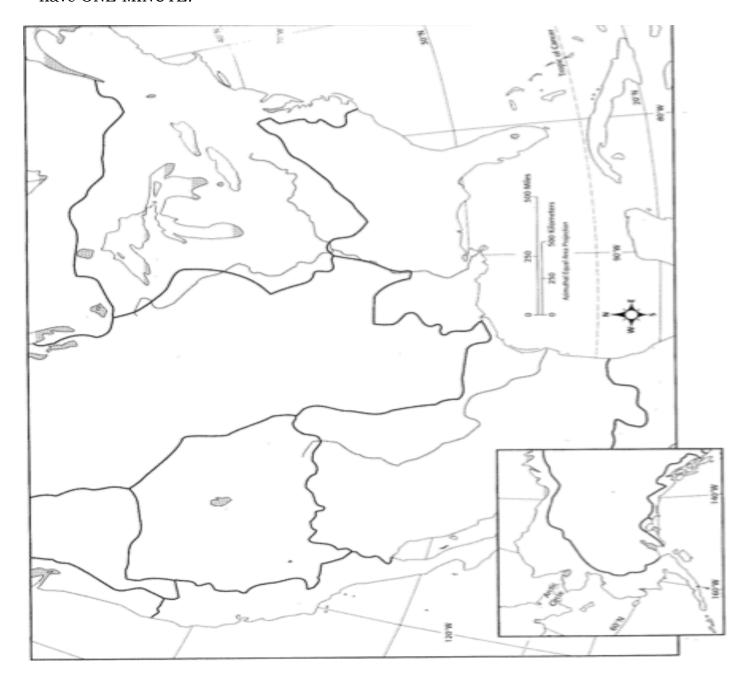
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I. MAP MINUTE! Native American Culture Regions

Directions: Label each of the Native American Culture Regions on the map below. You have ONE MINUTE!

California	Northwest Coast
Eastern Woodlands	Plateau
Great Basin	Southeast
Great Plains	Southwest

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Daily Debrief

Dear Brainiacs,

Yesterday we learned about the group of Native Americans known as the Iroquois who inhabit the Eastern Woodlands. Today we will be learning about another famous group of Native Americans from below the equator. Have you heard about the "end of the world" on December 21, 2012? Then you have heard of the Mayans! Today we will be exploring the Mayans and the many contributions they made to society and culture **before** Europeans stepped foot in the Americas. Let's explore!

I. Intro and Review

Around 14,000 years ago, hunter-gatherers moved from Asia to North America. At that time, the two continents had a land connection. These were some of the first Americans. They spread throughout North and South America. They had many different ways of life, each suited to the place where they lived.

Quick Questions

1. What was the land connection that these travelers crossed called?

_____

2. What site in Chile disproved the theory that this land connection was where the "very first" Americans came from?

_____

3. What is the theory that states the first Americans came from Asia by sea?

_____

II. The Mayan Creation Myth

Hi my name is _____   Hi my name is _____

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We are significant because we _____

Why did Tepeu (Tep-pay-you) and Gucumatz (Goo-coo-mahtz) decide to create other beings?

_____

_____

Why were Tepeau and Gucumatz disappointed by the first beings that they made? (What were the first beings?)

_____

_____

The first race of men were created by _____ but when they tried to speak they _____.

The second race of men were created from _____ and were able to walk, talk and multiply. But these men had no _____ and no _____. They could not _____.

Tepeu and Gucumatz sent a great _____. The few who managed to escape fled to the woods and became _____ as an example to the next race of men.

The last race of men were created from ____. These new men pleased the gods Tepeau and Gucumatz because their first action was to _____.

What was the main problem with the new race of men according to the Tepeu and Gucumatz?

_____

_____

How did Tepeu and Gucumatz solve the problem?

_____

_____

_____

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III. The Mayan City State

A great civilization arose in what is today southern Mexico and northern Central America that owes much of its culture and knowledge to the Olmec Civilization. This was the **Maya Civilization**. It appeared around CE 250. Between then and 900, the Maya built large cities such as Tikal and Copan. Each city was independent and ruled by a **god-king**. Each city was a **religious center** as well as **trade center** for the area around it. These cities had tens of thousands of people living in them. Each of the cities were full of palaces, temples and pyramids. Archaeologists have uncovered at least 50 Mayan cities.

1. What civilization appeared around CE 250? _____

2. Each city in the Mayan civilization was ruled by a _____

3. Each city was the center or _____ and _____

4. What three things did each city have? _____, _____ and _____.

IV. Food and Culture

   Maize, beans, and squash were the main foods of the Mayan people. **Maize** means corn, and was a large part of the diet of these people.

   Maya society was divided into **social classes**. The best warriors and priests were at the top. Merchants and craft workers were at the next level. Peasant farmers – the majority of the people – were at the bottom.

   The Maya religion was at the center of their society. There were many gods, including one for each day, making them **polytheistic**. The action of the day's god could be predicted, they thought by following a calendar. The calendar was extremely advanced, and included 365 days (just like ours does), however it was split into more months, and fewer days per month. The **Mayan Calendar** was copied by other civilizations such as the Inca and the Aztecs.

   The Maya sometimes cut themselves to offer blood to please the gods in sacrifice. Sometimes they killed enemies and **sacrificed** them by removing their hearts on an alter.

   The Maya also developed the most advanced **writing system** in the Ancient Americas. Maya writing was made up of about 800 symbols, or glyphs (think *hieroglyphics).* They used their writing system to record important historical events. They carved in stone or recorded events in bark-paper book known as the codex. Three of

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these ancient books still exist to this day. A famous Maya book called the Popul (Po – pull) Vuh (Voo) records a Maya story of the world's creation.

1. What were the most important food sources for the Maya?

_____

_____

2. The Mayan religion is _____, which means they believe in _____.

3. What is the significance of the Mayan calendar?

_____

_____

4. What did the Maya do to please the gods?

_____

_____

5. The Maya developed the most advanced _____ in the Americas.
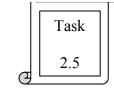
V. The Maya Decline

In the late 1800s, the Maya civilization began to decline. Historians do not know why. One explanation may be that warfare between the different city-states disrupted Maya society. The wars interrupted trade and drove many people out of the cities into the jungle. Another may be that the soil became less productive due to intensive farming over a long time. Whatever the cause, the Maya became a less powerful people. They continued to live in the area, but their cities were no longer the busy trade and religious centers they had once been.

VI. Archaeology Inquiry: Why Do Civilizations Fall?

Brainiacs, we're putting on our hard hats and taking a trip to Central America, the location of the Ancient Mayan Civilization. The Ancient Maya once occupied a vast geographic area in Central America. Their civilization extended to parts of what is now Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador and most of Guatemala and Belize. From the third to the ninth century, Maya civilization produced awe-inspiring temples and pyramids, highly accurate calendars, mathematics and hieroglyphic writing, and a complex social and

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political order. Looking at the remains of ancient Maya civilization, it's hard to image how such a society could collapse.

Clues to this collapse can be found at our dig site at Copan, a Maya site in western Honduras. Copan was once a classic Maya royal center, the largest site in the southeastern part of the Maya area. Covering about 29 acres, it was built on the banks of the Copan River on an artificial landing made of close to a million cubic feet of dirt. Over time, people spread out from the central core and built homes in the outlying areas that had formerly been used for crops. Copan's nobles built smaller, rival complexes on sites that were increasingly further from the core.

In spite of its wealth, power and size. Copan collapsed. No monuments seem to have been produced after CE 822. Does this mean that the collapse was sudden? Or is it possible that they society collapsed more gradually? To explore why Copan collapsed we're going to analyze the findings of the archaeologists who arrived to the site before us. Let's explore!

Monuments

Maya rulers carved elaborate monuments that told stories of their ascent (rise) to the throne, their lineage, important battlers, or other events. The Maya had a sophisticated and accurate calendar and a system of hieroglyphic writing. They dated many monuments and included the names of kings and when they reigned. There is one unfinished monument at Copan that can provide you with clues

This stone monument, an altar, might have been carved for use as a throne platform for a Maya ruler. One side was completed, but the other sides were left unfinished. On one of the unfinished sides, the Maya text shows a date, equivalent to February 10, CE 822. The remaining text was never finished. There are no known monuments at Copan dated after CE 822.

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People

Today, there are many people living in the Copan Valley. They grow maize, like the ancient Maya did before them. These modern farmers can provide clues to how ancient Maya farmers used the land. There are now about 25,000 people living in the Copan Valley, about the same number that lived there before Copan collapsed.

Modern farmers

When you talk to a modern farmer cultivating fields in the Copan Valley, he reports that he is getting less and less maize from his fields. Each year, the crop is getting smaller. Other farmers report the same thing. They also report that the land is being cultivated every year, with no time for the land to rest. This resting is called a fallow period. In order to feed the large population in the valley, farmers are growing crops on their land every year, but getting less and less maize from their farming.

Bones

There are two bone samples you can examine. They are the skulls of residents of Copan. Both were found buried a few miles from Copan's center (or acropolis). What do these clues reveal about Copan? Record your thoughts in your journal.

Skull #1
This skull shows evidence of severe anemia. Which probably killed this Copan citizen. The spongy-looking areas at the back of the skull are caused by a lack of iron in the diet. This person suffered from malnutrition (poor diet). 80% of the skeletons found at Copan show evidence of anemia.

Skull #2
This skulls shows evidence that the head was wrapped during childhood to form into a shape that was pleasing to the ancient Maya. The teeth have also been carved into an intricate pattern, something that was done by Maya of the upper social classes. Spongy looking areas at the back of the skull that this Maya noble had anemia.

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Botany

Plant and soil evidence can provide clues to what happened in the past. Examine this pollen slide, which comes from a sample taken from the bottom of a bog in a farming area outside of Copan.

Mahogany pollen

This slide is of mahogany pollen, dating to around CE 1200 – 1250. It shows that the Copan Valley had largely returned to forest by that time. Before CE 1200 – 1250, there is little evidence of mahogany pollen in the sample. Mahogany pollen would be present in areas of tall forest, but not in areas of heavy farming.

Houses

Studying the royal centers reveals a great deal about Maya life, but there is also evidence to be found in simple houses that lie miles away from Copan's center. Looking at evidence from settlements that surrounded Copan, you can pick up clues from obsidian blades and erosion debris.
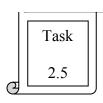

Erosion debris
Copan houses found near hillsides show debris erosion. The probably cause of this erosion is that people were over-farming the hillsides. The erosion seems to have begun in the mid 700s (based on evidence from obsidian plates) and to have continued for a long time afterward. At some point, these houses were abandoned. Eventually, some houses were completely buried by erosion debris.

Obsidian Plates
The Maya used obsidian, a glass-like mineral, to make cutting blades. Obsidian blades were widely used in households in Copan, and many blades have been found. The dates of these blades reveal how populated the valley was. Obsidian blades found in Copan households show a range of dates, from CE 500 – 1200. After CE 950 – 1000, the number of blades drops off.

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HOMEWORK

_____/10 Mastered/Passing/Not Mastered

Directions: Based on your archaeology field notes write a **power paragraph** explaining your findings about the decline of the Mayan Civilization and whether it was a rapid or gradual decline. Be sure to use one argument from each category. Remember the categories are: (1) Monuments, (2) Bones, (3) Botany and (4) Houses.

Thesis Options:
a. War with neighboring peoples brought on political problems and malnutrition
b. Overpopulation and over-farming brought on malnutrition and disease
c. A natural disaster caused the area to become uninhabitable because of erosion and crop shortages

Part i
Thesis Statement

Restate the Question: _____
_____
Answer: _____
Reason: _____
_____

Now write your thesis statement! _____
_____
_____

Part 2
3 Pieces of Evidence from Document #1

1. Evidence #1 _____

Explain how this supports your answer _____
_____
_____

Evidence #2 _____

Explain how this supports your answer _____
_____

Evidence #3 _____

Explain how this supports your answer _____
_____
_____

Evidence #4 _____

Explain how this supports your answer _____
_____
_____

Paragraph 5
Restate or Summarize Your Thesis and Evidence

Restate Answer: _____
_____

Reason/Evidence: _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

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EXIT TICKET

_____/5 Mastered/Passing/Not Mastered

1. Which answer relates best to the achievements of the Maya civilization?
    a. showed little evidence of urbanization
    b. lacked a strong central government
    c. developed complex mathematical and calendar system
    d. used military weapons superior to those of Europeans

2. A study of the Maya civilization in Latin America would show that this civilization
    a. developed advanced and complex societies before the arrival of the Europeans
    b. established extensive trade with Pacific Rim nations
    c. were strongly influenced by their contact with Asian and African civilizations
    d. were relatively large, but not well organized

3. Mayan civilization developed in what is now _____
    a. Brazil
    b. Guatemala
    c. Peru
    d. Texas

4. Why do you think Copan collapsed?
    a. war with neighboring peoples brought on political problems and malnutrition
    b. overpopulation and overfarming brought on malnutrition and disease
    c. a natural disaster caused the area to become uninhabitable because of erosion and crop shortages

5. In your opinion was the end of Maya civilization a gradual decline or a rapid fall?
    a. Rapid (occurred within a few years)
    b. Gradual (occurred over a few hundred years)

BRAINAIC BONUS: How did you come to this conclusion?

_____
_____
_____
_____