2000 BC – AD 1697

Maya Civilization Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. Where did Maya civilization develop?

- (A) In present-day Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador
- (B) In present-day Brazil, Venezuela, and Colombia
- (C) In present-day Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, and northern Chile
- (D) In present-day Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic

2. What was the Classic Maya period known for?

- (A) The building of El Mirador, centuries before the golden age
- (B) The slow Spanish conquest of the last free Maya kingdoms
- (C) The first Maya farming villages in the highlands and the lowlands
- (D) The height of Maya architecture, mathematics, astronomy, and art

3. What were the two great Maya powers of the Classic period?

- (A) Palenque and El Mirador
- (B) Tikal and Chichen Itza
- (C) Tikal and Calakmul
- (D) Copan and Tenochtitlan

4. What was remarkable about Maya mathematics and astronomy?

- (A) They measured the distance around the Earth using noon shadows
- (B) They made a very accurate calendar and used the idea of zero
- (C) They built the first telescopes to study the planets
- (D) They invented algebra and the numerals we use today

5. What happened during the Classic Maya Collapse around AD 800–900?

(A) The big cities of the northern Yucatan were taken by the Aztecs

(B) The big cities of the southern lowlands were abandoned

(C) The big cities of the highlands were buried by a volcanic eruption

(D) The big cities of the southern lowlands were burned by Spain

6. What is Chichen Itza?

(A) A Maya city on Lake Peten that fell to the Spanish in 1697

(B) A Maya city in Mexico where King Pakal ruled for 68 years

(C) A Maya city in northern Yucatan that rose after the Classic collapse

(D) A Maya city in Guatemala that was the great rival of Calakmul

7. Why did the Spanish conquest of the Maya take nearly 170 years?

(A) The Maya had many separate states that had to be conquered one by one

(B) The Maya had steel weapons and horses equal to those of the Spanish

(C) The Maya signed peace treaties that kept the Spanish out until 1697

(D) The Maya had one strong emperor who united every city against Spain

8. Do the Maya still exist today?

(A) No, the last Maya died out after the Spanish conquest ended in 1697

(B) No, the Maya died out when the Classic cities collapsed around AD 900

(C) Yes, but only a few hundred Maya remain, and no one speaks the languages

(D) Yes, millions of Maya live today, and about 6 million speak Maya languages

2000 BC – AD 1697

Maya Civilization Quiz: Answer Key

1. **A** In present-day Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador

2. **D** The height of Maya architecture, mathematics, astronomy, and art

3. **C** Tikal and Calakmul

4. **B** They made a very accurate calendar and used the idea of zero

5. **B** The big cities of the southern lowlands were abandoned

6. **C** A Maya city in northern Yucatan that rose after the Classic collapse

7. **A** The Maya had many separate states that had to be conquered one by one

8. **D** Yes, millions of Maya live today, and about 6 million speak Maya languages