

Differences Between the Aztecs and the Maya

The Aztecs and Maya were civilizations that lived in what is now Mexico and Central America. There were many similarities but also differences between the two cultures.

Aztecs

Aztecs were warriors who waged war on their neighbors and made them pay tributes. A successful male warrior held a place of honor in society. In Aztec society, human sacrifices happened regularly. The Aztecs were the dominant culture until Spanish explorers arrived in Mexico in 1519.

Maya

Maya were scientific people who studied stars and time. They created a calendar similar to the one we use today. Intelligence and reputation were important qualities for a Mayan ruler. They could also be quite violent as blood sacrifices (and some human sacrifices) often occurred. They were dominant around 1000 years before the Aztecs.



Quick Questions



1. When were the Maya a dominant culture?

2. Find two words that tell you that the Maya were educated?

3. How does the layout help the reader?

4. Which era would have been easier to live during? Can you use the text to explain why?

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Quick Questions Answers



1. When were the Maya a dominant culture?

The Maya were a dominant culture during the 500s.



2. Find two words that tell you that the Maya were educated? **Scientific, studied, intelligence**



3. How does the layout help the reader?

Answers will vary. Possible answer: The bold subheadings make it easier for the reader to find the information they need and make comparisons.



4. Which era would have been easier to live during? Can you use the text to explain why?

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