

## A Mayan Mystery

Around AD 900, some southern city states were abandoned, but others in the north continued to grow until Spanish invaders arrived in the early 1500s.

The Maya living in the south hardly produced any writing after around AD 900.

1. Why might this make it difficult for historians to find out why the southern city states were abandoned?

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2. Imagine you are a Mayan farmer living in the south in AD 900. Would you have stayed on your farm or moved to the north? Explain your answer.

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3. Look at the information on page 34 of your Study Book. Read the sentences below and colour in any that are true.

Historians are certain that the Maya were abducted by aliens.

The Maya stayed in Tikal until the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Mayan farming methods didn't harm their land.

Some city states had massive populations by AD 900.

After many years of fighting, Spanish invaders took control of the Mayan territory.

4. Give three ways that life changed for the Maya after they were defeated by the Spanish.

1) .....

2) .....

3) .....

5. Give two examples of ancient Mayan traditions which are still a part of modern Mayan life.

1) .....

2) .....

6. Are you surprised that parts of ancient Mayan culture have survived to the present day? Why or why not?

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"I understand the challenges that the ancient Maya faced and know about Mayan culture today." 