

Mesoamerican Civilizations Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Mesoamerican Civilizations trivia invites you into the world of the Olmec, Maya, Zapotec, Teotihuacan, and Aztec, whose societies shaped ancient Mexico and Central America over thousands of years. Expect facts about monumental architecture, writing, calendars, trade, religion, and daily life that reveal both the achievements and the diversity of this region's civilizations. Whether you want a family-friendly challenge or tougher history questions, this topic offers a lively way to test what you know.

HARD MESOAMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS TRIVIA

1. Which scholar is especially credited with demonstrating that Maya inscriptions recorded the histories of rulers and political events rather than being purely calendrical or astronomical texts?

Answer: Tatiana Proskouriakoff

2. Name the decipherer associated with a major breakthrough in understanding Maya writing.?

Answer: Yuri Knorozov

3. Which leading figure in Maya studies is particularly associated with both epigraphy and iconography?

Answer: Linda Schele

4. Which Maya hieroglyph specialist received a MacArthur Fellowship for his work?

Answer: David Stuart

5. Whose 19th-century published accounts became especially influential in shaping knowledge of Maya ruins?

Answer: John Lloyd Stephens

6. Which published scholar produced an early drawing of the Aztec Sun Stone?

Answer: Alexander von Humboldt

7. Who directed the major excavations at Templo Mayor?

Answer: Eduardo Matos Moctezuma

8. Which author is known for writing influential books on the Maya and Mesoamerica?

Answer: Michael D. Coe

9. In Maya chronology, what period comes after the Classic period?

Answer: Terminal Classic

10. Which year is associated with a key milestone for Mesoamerican Civilizations?

Answer: Classic Maya

11. Which important Epi-Olmec site is located in Veracruz?

Answer: Tres Zapotes

12. What monument at Tres Zapotes is noted for bearing an early Long Count date?

Answer: Stela C

13. Which major Formative-period site in Chiapas is often singled out in deep surveys of early Mesoamerican centers?

Answer: Izapa

14. In the Aztec Triple Alliance, which city joined Tenochtitlan and Texcoco as the third member?

Answer: Tlacopan

FUNNY MESOAMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS TRIVIA

1. If an ancient plaza needed the world's grimmest display shelf, what was the skull rack called?

Answer: tzompantli

2. At Tula, the famous warrior columns go by what nickname that sounds like they might start swimming away?

Answer: Atlantean figures

3. Which Aztec ruler was busy expanding the empire in the late 15th century, basically turning conquest into a full-time hobby?

Answer: Ahuitzotl

4. Who ruled Texcoco and is remembered not just as a ruler but as a poet-king—a proof that royal multitasking is ancient?

Answer: Nezahualcoyotl

5. What was the capital of the Tarascan state, a name that definitely makes your spell-check nervous?

Answer: Tzintzuntzan

6. The Tarascan state was centered in which region of Mexico?

Answer: Michoacán

7. In what year did the Aztec capital fall to Spanish-led forces—the history's least welcome city takeover?

Answer: 1521

8. At Cobán, if you wanted to travel on a proper stone road instead of improvising through the jungle, what were those roads called?

Answer: sacbeob

9. Which structure at Cobán is one of the tallest Maya pyramids in the Yucatán Peninsula, just in case regular tall wasn't enough?

Answer: Nohoch Mul

10. Name one of the surviving Maya books whose title sounds like it might be waiting in a

European library reading room.?

Answer: Dresden Codex

11. Which surviving Maya codex shares its name with Spain's capital, making it sound oddly well-traveled?

Answer: Madrid Codex

12. Which surviving Maya codex has a name that sounds ready for a café and a museum visit in the same afternoon?

Answer: Paris Codex

13. Which Mesoamerican deity was associated with renewal, essentially becoming the patron of dramatic fresh starts?

Answer: Xipe Totec

FUN MESOAMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS TRIVIA

1. Which Maya site is especially famous for its colorful wall paintings?

Answer: Bonampak

2. If you were visiting the Maya city of Calakmul today, which present-day Mexican state would you be in?

Answer: Campeche

3. Which major Maya site is in present-day Belize?

Answer: Caracol

4. Name the Maya site located on the Usumacinta River that starts with a big Y.?

Answer: Yaxchilan

5. True or false: Piedras Negras was a major Maya site on the Usumacinta River.?

Answer: True

6. What game connected many Mesoamerican cultures like a region-wide sports craze?

Answer: The ballgame

7. What kind of ball was used in the Mesoamerican ballgame?

Answer: A rubber ball

8. Which famous feature at Chich'en Itz' is one of the best-known ballcourts in Mesoamerica?

Answer: The Great Ball Court

9. Which text preserves stories of the K'iche' Maya?

Answer: The Popol Vuh

10. Aguateca is a Maya site in which present-day country?

Answer: Guatemala

11. Which Maya kingdom belonged to the Petexbat'án region?

Answer: Dos Pilas

12. Which site is known for very tall carved Maya stelae?

Answer: Quirigua

13. What important ancient center was located in the Valley of Guatemala?

Answer: Kaminaljuyu

MESOAMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS FAMILY TRIVIA

1. What kind of rock were the giant Olmec heads carved from?

Answer: basalt

2. At which Maya site would you find the Temple of the Inscriptions?

Answer: Palenque

3. Who was the ruler of Palenque known as 'the Great'?

Answer: Pakal the Great

4. Which monument at Copan shows a sequence of rulers from one dynasty?

Answer: Altar Q

5. Lady Xoc is linked with which Maya site?

Answer: Yaxchilan

6. Which pictorial record is known for preserving Mixtec family lines and historical events?

Answer: Codex Nuttall

7. What market city stood right next to Tenochtitlan?

Answer: Tlatelolco

8. Which ancient city lies northeast of modern Mexico City?

Answer: Teotihuacan

9. Name one of the largest monuments at Teotihuacan.?

Answer: Pyramid of the Sun

10. Which pyramid stands at the north end of Teotihuacan's main avenue?

Answer: Pyramid of the Moon

11. What is Teotihuacan's main boulevard often called?

Answer: Avenue of the Dead

12. Who was the Aztec ruler when Hernan Cortes arrived?

Answer: Montezuma II

EASY MESOAMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS TRIVIA

1. What lake was Tenochtitlan built on an island in?

Answer: Lake Texcoco

2. Which major Maya site is located in present-day Guatemala?

Answer: Tikal

3. Which famous archaeological site lies in the northern Yucatán Peninsula?

Answer: Chichén Itzá

4. At Chichén Itzá, what is the name of the famous step pyramid?

Answer: El Castillo

5. What was the capital city of the Aztec Empire?

Answer: Tenochtitlan

6. Copán, a Maya city, is in which present-day country?

Answer: Honduras

7. Which major Puuc-style Maya site is in Yucatán?

Answer: Uxmal

8. How many days are in the Maya ritual calendar called the Tzolkin?

Answer: 260 days

9. Which Maya dating system counts days from a mythic starting point?

Answer: The Long Count

10. If you spot giant warrior columns sometimes called Atlantean figures, which site are you likely visiting?

Answer: Tula

11. What major temple stood in the ceremonial center of Tenochtitlan?

Answer: Templo Mayor

12. Which Olmec center was located on the Gulf Coast?

Answer: La Venta

13. What alliance led the Aztec Empire?

Answer: The Triple Alliance

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/mesoamerican-civilizations>