Maya Study Guide

**Vocabulary:** **Write a definition for each of the words listed below.**

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| Pok-Ta-Tok: | Game Played by Mayans (Similar to basketball) |
| Maize: | Corn |
| Hieroglyphics: | Writing system of the mayans(used pictures to express syllables) |
| Stelae: | A large stone monument that recorded important dates and events of the mayans |
| Tikal and Copan: | Mayan Cities(present day Honduras and Guatemala) |

**Short Answer: Discuss each of the following topics.**

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| Cacao Beans | They ground the beans into a powder or paste and mixed it with hot water to make a drink. Sometimes they added spices like chili. |
| Stelae | A large stone monument that showed special events in mayan cultures. It had a carving of a man on one side and hieroglyphics on the other. |
| Agriculture | Farmers lived outside of the city. They tended the fields and grew corn, squash, beans, papaya and avocado. The priests told them when to plant. The most important crop was maize. |
| Religion | * Worshipped many gods * Sometimes had human sacrifice * Built temples * Priests created calendars for religious celebrations * Priests were very important |
| Finding the civilizations | In 1839, the ruins of the city of Copan were discovered in the rainforest. Scientists studied the ruins and the items found there to learn about Mayan life. |
| Mystery | The mystery of the Maya is that no one is really sure what happened to end the civilization. Somewhere around 900 AD, the larger cities became abandoned. It may have been because of war, famine, disease, or natural disasters. There is no scientific proof of what happened |