

LO: I can describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including land use and natural resources such as food.
Teacher click LO for background reading

When you have written the date and LO is your neatest handwriting try and identify all the items.

Thinking back to your previous lessons, which picture matches which region of the Maya area?

We know that the Maya managed to live all over this region. So what must they have been able to do?

Each area presented its own challenge in order to grow food.
 Task 1: On your table you have a card with one of the 3 regions and the challenges the one posed. In groups I want you to think about possible ways to overcome the challenge.

How did the Maya farm these different areas?

In the southern mountains, the Maya cut into the sides of the hills to make steps, called terraces, to create flat areas to farm on.

In the central rainforest, the Maya constructed raised fields to keep their crops from being waterlogged.

In the northern grassland, the shafts, or canals, were often dug deeper to reach water that could be used for crops.

Task 2: Stick the landscape picture in with the correct solution picture and briefly explain the solution.

All of these different regions used a similar method to clear the land of bushes and trees. They still do it in the Amazon rainforest and you looked at it last year. Can you remember what it's called?

THE MILPA CYCLE

In all these areas, the forest was often burned away to start with to create milpa fields. A milpa is a field, usually but not always recently cleared, in which farmers plant a dozen crops at once including maize, avocados, multiple varieties of squash and bean, melon, tomatoes, chili, sweet potato, jicama, amaranth, and morcua... Milpa crops are nutritionally and environmentally complementary.

This method was different to farming in Britain at the time. Can you remember how the Saxons used to farm?

The typical planting scheme in a three-field system was that barley, oats, or legumes would be planted in one field in spring, wheat or rye in the second field in the fall and the third field would be left fallow. The following year, the planting in the fields would be rotated.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?
 Why was it important for the Maya to grow a variety?

What has changed significantly in modern farming?

Task 3: Stick the two pictures of different farming methods into your book and write an explanation about both. Then write and answer the questions:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <p>Maya</p> <p>Explanation</p> | <p>Anglo Saxon</p> <p>Explanation</p> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

What are the main advantages of each?

Finally, let's look at the importance of maize to the Maya.
 Maize was the staple crop in Mesoamerica. It is a versatile grain which can be grown in the wet lowlands as well as the drier mountain areas. It flourishes when repeatedly harvested and cut down, and provides a rich nutritional carbohydrate foodstuff.
 Unlike modern corn, ancient maize could not simply be boiled and eaten; it required much work to make it edible. The maize needed to be boiled with white lime to release the amino acids and vitamin B and then ground into a paste to produce an unleavened dough. Maize was often grown together with squash and beans, a combination known as the Three Sisters. The squash plants grow at ground level and keep down weeds, the maize plants grow straight up through the squash and the beans grow around and up the maize. All three plants work together to produce a nutritious combination of protein, carbohydrates and vitamins.

Maize was so important that they even had a god of maize.
 The Maya believed in an array of gods who represented aspects of nature, society and professions. The maize god, Hun Hunahpu, was one of the most important owing to his connection with this vital staple crop. He is shown here as a youthful, handsome man. His headdress is a stylized ear of corn and his hair is the silk of the corn.

Task 4: Stick the picture of the maize god in and write a brief few sentences about why maize was important and why there is a god for this crop. Bonus marks for those who can link their knowledge to other topics e.g. Ancient Greece, Romans or Vikings.

LO: I can describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including land use and natural resources such as food.
Teacher click LO for background reading

When you have written the date and LO is your neatest handwriting try and identify all the items.

Thinking back to your previous lessons, which picture matches which region of the Maya area?

Northern grasslands
 Rainforest
 Southern mountains

We know that the Maya managed to live all over this region. So what must they have been able to do?
 Get water and get food.

Each area presented its own challenge in order to grow food.
 Task 1: On your table you have a card with one of the 3 regions and the challenges the one posed. In groups I want you to think about possible ways to overcome the challenge.



How did the Maya farm these different areas?

In the southern mountains, the Maya cut into the sides of the hills to make steps, called terraces, to create flat areas to farm on.

In the central rainforest, the Maya constructed raised fields to keep their crops from being waterlogged.

In the northern grassland, the shafts, or canals, were often dug deeper to reach water that could be used for crops.

Task 2: Stick the landscape picture in with the correct solution picture and briefly explain the solution.

All of these different regions used a similar method to clear the land of bushes and trees. They still do it in the Amazon rainforest and you looked at it last year. Can you remember what it's called?

Slash and burn

THE MILPA CYCLE

In all these areas, the forest was often burned away to start with to create milpa fields. A milpa is a field, usually but not always recently cleared, in which farmers plant a dozen crops at once including maize, avocados, multiple varieties of squash and bean, melon, tomatoes, chili, sweet potato, jicama, amaranth, and mucuna... Milpa crops are nutritionally and environmentally complementary.

This method was different to farming in Britain at the time. Can you remember how the Saxons used to farm?
 The typical planting scheme in a three-field system was that barley, oats, or legumes would be planted in one field in spring, wheat or rye in the second field in the fall and the third field would be left fallow. The following year, the planting in the fields would be rotated.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?
 Why was it important for the Maya to grow a variety?

What has changed significantly in modern farming?
 Task 3: Stick the two pictures of different farming methods into your book and write an explanation about both. Then write and answer the questions:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Maya Explanation | Anglo Saxon Explanation |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|

What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?
 The Maya had good access to water so they could grow crops in wet areas and they had enough labour to work the fields along the river banks.
 The Anglo Saxons had to work in drier areas so they had to use a three-field system to get the most out of their land.
 Why was it important for the Maya to grow a variety?
 The Maya had to grow a variety of crops to survive in their wet areas.
 The Anglo Saxons had to grow a variety of crops to survive in their drier areas.
 Why was it important for the Anglo Saxons to grow a variety?
 The Anglo Saxons had to grow a variety of crops to survive in their drier areas.

Finally, let's look at the importance of maize to the Maya.
 Maize was the staple crop in Mesoamerica. It is a versatile grain which can be grown in the wet lowlands as well as the drier mountain areas. It flourishes when repeatedly harvested and cut down, and provides a rich nutritional carbohydrate foodstuff.
 Unlike modern corn, ancient maize could not simply be boiled and eaten: it required much work to make it edible. The maize needed to be boiled with white lime to release the amino acids and vitamin B and then ground into a paste to produce an unleavened dough. Maize was often grown together with squash and beans, a combination known as the Three Sisters. The squash plants grow at ground level and keep down weeds, the maize plants grow straight up through the squash and the beans grow around and up the maize. All three plants work together to produce a nutritious combination of protein, carbohydrates and vitamins.

Maize was so important that they even had a god of maize.
 The Maya believed in an array of gods who represented aspects of nature, society and professions. The maize god, Hun Hunahpu, was one of the most important owing to his connection with this vital staple crop. He is shown here as a youthful, handsome man. His headdress is a stylized ear of corn and his hair is the silk of the corn.

Task 4: Stick the picture of the maize god in and write a brief few sentences about why maize was important and why there is a god for this crop. Bonus marks for those who can link their knowledge to other topics e.g. Ancient Greece, Romans or Vikings.