

ANSWERS

Reading Challenge - suggested answers

1. Any two of: Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador.
2. A city and its surrounding area ruled as its own state, with its own ruler.
3. Any two: stone temples, stepped pyramids, plazas, ball courts.
4. It was a staple/main food and many Maya people depended on farming it.
5. To record important events, rulers and religious ideas.
6. abandoned.
7. Possible answer: markets let people exchange food and useful goods, including items brought from other places.
8. Possible examples: farmers, craftspeople, traders, nobles, priests and rulers had different jobs; children's lives depended on their family and where they lived.
9. Because Maya people continued living across the region after many southern cities declined, and millions of Maya people and Maya languages remain today.
10. Open answer. Look for a clear choice plus evidence from the text.

Supporting pupils without changing the task

Reading: read one section at a time; highlight key nouns in the question; allow oral answers before writing.

Diary: pupils can use the five planning boxes and sentence starters, then write one paragraph for morning and one for afternoon/evening.

Temple story: pupils may choose just three stages - discovery, surprise, ending - and use the senses bank to build sentences.

Stretching confident writers

Reading: require evidence and full-sentence explanations for questions 7-10.

Diary: ask for consistent first person, varied time adverbials, historical detail woven naturally into the writing and reflection on feelings.

Temple story: focus on atmosphere, controlled pacing, purposeful paragraphing and showing rather than telling.

Curriculum links (Years 3-4 English)

- retrieve and record information from non-fiction
- draw inferences and justify ideas using evidence
- plan writing by discussing and recording ideas
- compose and rehearse sentences orally
- organise paragraphs around a theme
- use an increasing range of sentence structures and punctuation
- evaluate and improve writing