

Name:

Date:

Period:

EXAMPLE

Topic Context and Development of Historical Question

Topic Context:

The Maya were people who lived in Central America from about 1500 BCE to about 1000 CE. They lived in city-states ruled by dynasties. They grew corn and had sophisticated irrigation systems. They built temples, pyramids, and palaces. They also knew how to work with copper, how to write in their own hieroglyphs, and how to create calendars using sophisticated astronomy. However, the civilization collapsed so completely that the Spanish found very few people remaining in the region when the Spanish arrived.

Question:

Why did the Maya civilization collapse?

Source: <http://teachinghistory.org/teaching-materials/teaching-guides/25516>