16.2 Maya Kings and Cities

1. **Setting the Stage**
   a. People of Mexico and Central America enter into civilizations
   b. The Maya built an extraordinary civilization in the heart of the Mesoamerica
2. **Maya Create City-State**
   a. Mayan homeland stretches from southern Mexico into northern Central America
      i. _____ – in the north on the Yucatan Peninsula in the jungle
      ii. _____ – in the south in cool, cloud-wreathed mountains
   b. **Urban Center**
      i. <u>Classic Period</u> – 250 to 900
         1. During this time built spectacular city - **_____**
         2. Each was an independent city-state, _____ and
            serving as the center for religious ceremonies and _____
         3. Many cities had temples, pyramids, palaces, and stone carvings dedicated to gods
         4. Many cities had a ball court
            a. The game had _____ and _____
               significance – playing the game would maintain the cycles of the
               _____ and bring _____
   c. **Agriculture and Trade Support Cities**
      i. Independent city-states were linked through _____
         1. Cities exchanges local products with each other
         2. Growing of maize, beans, and squash provided the basis for _____
            a. Used _____ agriculture, _____
               above swamps and on _____
   d. **Kingdom Built on Dynasties**
      i. Successful farming methods led to an accumulation of _____ and
         development of _____
         1. _____ – Sat at the top, regarded as a holy figure and his position was hereditary
         2. _____ Class – priests and the leading warriors, occupied the top of society
         3. _____ Class – merchants and skilled artisans
         4. _____ Class – peasants – majority of the people
3. **Religion Shapes Maya Life**
   a. Religion shaped most aspects of life and they believed in many gods
      i. Gods could be _____ or _____ or _____
         1. Believed each day was a _____ whose behavior could be predicted
            with the help of a system of calendars
   b. **Religious Practices**
      i. Worshipped gods in various ways
         1. Prayed and made offerings of food, flowers, and incense
         2. Sometimes they pierced and cut themselves to offer blood to the god
            a. Believed _____ would _____ the gods

3. Performed _____ – believed it pleased the gods and kept

   the _____

c. Math and Religion

   i. Many religious beliefs led to the development of calendar, mathematics, and astronomy

   1. Some days were _____ depending on the god –

   important to have an accurate calendar

ii. Calendar

   1. _____ – 260-days consisting of 13 20-day months

   2. _____ – 365-days consisting of 18 20-day months

   plus a separate period of 5 days at the end

   a. Calendars were linked together like meshed gears so that any given day could be

   identified in both cycles

   i. determined the best time to plant crops, attack enemies, and crown a new ruler

   3. Based on careful observation of the _____, _____, and _____

   a. Astronomers and mathematicians calculated the solar year at 365.2420 - .0002 off

d. Written Language Preserves History

   i. Developed the most _____ in the ancient Americas

   1. Consisted of 800 hieroglyphic symbols or _____

   ii. Used to record important historical events, carving glyphs in stone or recording them in a

   bark-paper book known as a _____ – only 3 still exist

   iii. Most original books telling Maya history and customs were written down after the arrival of the

   Spanish

   1. Popol Vuh – most famous and recounts the Highland Maya's version of the story of creation

How might the belief that each day was a living god affect the daily life of the Maya?

4. Mysterious Maya Decline

   a. In the late 800s, the Maya suddenly abandoned many of their cities

   i. _____ from the north, the Toltec moved into the lands occupied by the Maya

   1. These warlike people from central Mexico _____ and cities

   started to _____

   b. No one knows for sure what happened to the Maya but the leading theory is

   i. _____ between various city-states disrupted _____

   and produced _____ hardship

   ii. In addition _____ and _____

   may have damaged the environment and led to food shortage, famine and disease

   iii. By the time the Spanish arrived in the 1500s, the Maya were divided into small weak city-states

   that gave little hint of their former glory