**Mayan Notes**

Complete the notes while reading p. 70-71 in the textbook.

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| 1. When were the Olmecs around and what are they best known for?   **Around 1200BC, known for their pyramid-shaped temples and huge carved stone heads** |
| 1. When were the Mayas at their peak?   **About 250-900AD** |
| 1. Was farming important to the Mayans? Explain.   **Yes. Their life was based on farming, they worshipped a rain god and a sun god** |
| 1. Describe the technique the Mayas used to farm.   **Slash-and-burn where they cut down trees, burned the tree stumps, saved the ash for fertilizer, then planted seeds. After a few years the soil was worn out and they would have to clear a new area** |
| 1. What types of crops did they grow? Which crop was the most important? Explain.   **Beans, squash, peppers, papayas, avocados, maize-corn. Corn was so important they worshipped the god of corn** |
| 1. Explain how the cities were governed and organized.   **Each city had a different ruler who lived in large palaces. Ordinary people lived on the edges of the city** |
| 1. Where the Mayas religious? Explain.   **Yes. They had great festivals to honor the gods, built temple-pyramids, and even had human sacrifice** |
| 1. Where the Mayas educated? Explain   **Yes. There were skilled mathematicians, priests developed a calendar, and they wrote with hierogylphics** |
| 1. When and what caused the Mayan civilization to end?   **Around 900AD in just declined and no one really knows why, although descendants still live there** |

**Maya BrainPop**

Complete the 5 W’s + 1 H Chart while watching the video.

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| Who were the Maya?  **An ancient civilization that formed thousands of years before the Aztecs, they were more of a collection of city-states, each with its own ruling family** |
| When did the Mayas first come to Mesoamerica?  **About 4,000 years ago** |
| Why did the Maya build observatories at the top of their pyramids?  **To watch the stars, made charts of the stars, they believed the stars told the story of their gods, Pleiades cluster most important, they would make calendars to align with certain constellations** |
| Where were the centers of the Mayan culture?  **City-states. They were dominated by pyramids and palaces, controlled surrounding farmlands and smaller towns** |
| How did the Maya record their history?  **Hieroglyphics. Their hieroglyphics were phonetic, meaning they were more like letters and they were combined to make different words. They also had a codex book and pillars with writing called stelae** |
| What is a base-20 number system?  **Mayans system of writing, they had 20 individual digits instead of 10 like us, a bar = 5, a dot = 1, and a shell = 0** |