

Making Words

Directions: Unscramble the strip of letters at the bottom of the page. Try to move the letters around to make 3-letter words. How many words can you make? Write them in the box. Can you make any four-letter words? Five-letter words? Can you make any other words? Can you guess the SECRET WORD all these letters make?

Three-letter Words: 	Four-Letter Words:
Five-letter Words: 	Other words:

Students: total up how many words you have... you must have at least 25 words!

Total words

Do you know the secret word?

Unscramble these letters:

A	E	I	O	O	H	M	N	P	S	S
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Clue: In History, we learned that we modern humans are so intelligent that our scientific classification means wise man ...

Due: Weekend Mon/Tues 9/19-20

READ THE PASSAGE Underline or make notes about words you do not understand.

Mayan Calendars

The Maya were an influential people living in what is now Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, and parts of southern Mexico. The ancient Maya developed sophisticated systems of agriculture, architecture, science, mathematics, and writing. One of the most important Mayan developments was the creation of calendars.

The ancient Maya had several calendars. The Tzolkin (ZOL-keen) calendar was tied to religious beliefs. The Haab (hayb) calendar was based on the length of a year.

Understanding astronomy helped the Maya accurately measure days, months, and years. A year had 365 days by Mayan calculations, as it does in our own calendar. The Mayan year, though, was made up of 18 months, and each month had 20 days. An extra 5 days were added to complete the calendar year. These days rounded out the calendar nicely, but the Maya thought they were unlucky.

One of the most unusual Mayan calendars was actually a pyramid. Around AD 1050, the Maya built the Pyramid of Kukulkan (KO-KUL-kan) at Chichén Itzá (chee-CHEN eet-SAH). The pyramid had a stairway on each of its four sides. Each stairway had 91 steps. Counting the platform at the top, there were 365 steps, the same number of days in the calendar year.

**STRATEGY PRACTICE** List one or two words you found confusing and describe how you figured out their meanings.

SKILL PRACTICE Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- What is the second paragraph mostly about?
 - The Maya were a very hardworking people.
 - The Maya had different kinds of calendars.
 - Mayan months consisted of 20 days.
 - The Maya built a pyramid that was a calendar.
- What does the map show?
 - how far Mayan culture spread
 - locations of Mayan calendars
 - where the Maya lived
 - where people can visit Mayan ruins
- Which detail supports the idea that the Pyramid of Kukulkan was a calendar?
 - The pyramid had 365 steps.
 - The pyramid had four sides.
 - The pyramid was very unusual.
 - The pyramid was built around AD 1050.
- Which of these would a Mayan probably do during the last five days of the year?
 - make a dangerous trip
 - take a risk or a chance
 - stay home
 - have a wild party