

Occupied on Mayan Time I

Levels: 9-12

Subjects: ELL, history, reading

See <http://maya.nmai.si.edu> for materials for this lesson.

Objectives: Learners are introduced to the Maya peoples of Mesoamerica via the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian website.

Learners will be able to answer the following questions:

- a) Where do the Maya live? How many Maya are there?
- b) What does their creation story tell? What and where are their sacred sites? What is their worldview?
- e) What role does the sun play in Mayan society? What is the Mayan Calendar? How does it work? How does corn affect the Mayan Calendar? What does the year 2012 mean in the Mayan Calendar?

Presentations can be as long or short as the teacher wishes, but there is sufficient material on the website for a 20-minute presentation by each group. The presentation can alternatively be given by the teacher as part of the class. It is recommended that the teacher thoroughly go through the online material as there is a wealth of material, much of which is interactive.