



Maya Writing Comprehension Answers

1. The earliest examples of Maya writing were found in San Bartolo, Guatemala.
because they contain information about religious beliefs, rituals, planetary movements, animals and Maya culture.
2. A logogram represents words whereas a syllabogram represents a unit of sound.
3. The Maya people often had several syllabograms to represent the same sound so people could vary how they spelled words.
4. Maya writing was written in paired columns and read left to right down the page in a zig-zag fashion.
5. Diego de Landa was a Catholic priest who ordered the mass burning of a number of Maya codices because he believed they were the work of the devil.
6. Diego de Landa helped us to understand Maya writing because he wrote detailed records which helped us to understand the system and a guide to some of the glyphs which became known as Landa's alphabet.
7. Three of the codices are named after the places they are kept in today; Madrid, Paris and Dresden.
8. The Madrid Codex is the longest Codex and the Dresden Codex is the most complete.
9. The codices can help us to learn about the Maya people
10. Expect various answers, based on the children's own opinion. Children should provide a reason for their opinion, based on evidence gleaned from the text.