

The Maya: Writing tasks

A day in a Mayan Village

Write a diary entry describing a day in your village before the adventure began. What are your tasks? How do you tend to the maize? Who takes the crops to market? How do you look after Soft Paws? Describe your routines and any concerns you have as it has been such a long time since it rained. Do you think the gods are angry with you?

You might include....

- Dialogue with customers at the market

Remember

- Use the past tense
- Describe how you felt as well as what you did

Newspaper Report

You are a reporter who was in the crowd when the sacrifice on the pyramid was stopped at the last minute, thanks to the solar eclipse and the timely arrival of Soft Paws. Write a report for the Mayan Times describing what happened.

You might include....

- opinions and reactions from the crowd: e.g. "The Jaguar God! He's come to Earth!"

Remember....

- To write a snappy headline for your report
- To use inverted commas when using direct speech

Tropical Tikal

You have been commissioned to create a leaflet to encourage tourists to visit the ancient Kingdom of Tikal. Think about all the riches it has to offer: historically and geographically. Where would you advise tourists to go? To take a canoe ride on the river; to explore the inside of a pyramid; or go on a trek into the lush rainforest?

You might include...

- maps and illustrations

Remember...

- Use powerful persuasive language: lots of adjectives and exaggeration: 'fragrant aromas drifting across the breeze'; 'proud pyramids standing strong...'

The Maya: Writing tasks continued

Mayan Football

What can you find out about the ancient ball games that the Mayans used to play? Create a rulebook explaining how your version is to be played. Will the losers be sacrificed? What name will you give your game?

You might include.....

- a diagram of the pitch

Remember...

- To label any pictures and diagrams
- Use the imperative case (bossy language): e.g. Don't touch the ball with your hands.

The Day the Moon Ate the Sun

Ixcel, like all Ancient Mayans, believed a solar eclipse was a sign that the gods were angry with them. You know that this isn't the case. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon moves between the sun and the earth. Write a letter to Ixcel to explain how this happens.

You might include.....

- diagrams
- an explanation about the fact that the earth orbits the sun and the moon orbits the earth. This will be news to the Ancient Mayans!

Remember

- Label diagrams clearly