

Different Perspectives from Different Professionals

Career:

Archaeologist

What This Career Focuses On:

Looking at artifacts that were created or used by people who lived during a specific time period.

Claim:

The Mayan civilization declined because of civil wars. Civil wars happened when city-states fought with each other. City-states are small populations of people. Wars destroyed cities. For example, homes were knocked down or burned. In addition, wars killed many people. Wars also lead to a lack of order. People don't follow rules. This causes chaos to occur. This chaos and destruction led to people's having to find ways to survive on their own.

Evidence:

Archaeologists have found painted human skulls during archaeological digs. The skulls were worn around warriors' necks as necklaces. People who fought in wars were known as warriors. They wore these skulls to show how they were strong warriors who would conquer their enemies. Because a lot of skulls were discovered, archaeologists believe that there was a lot of fighting going on in the Mayan civilization. As a result, a lot of people died. There was also a lot of chaos that happened. As a result, the civilization declined.

Want more information? Check out this article: <https://www.nytimes.com/1991/11/19/science/what-doomed-the-maya-maybe-warfare-run-amok.html>

Career:

Environmentalist

What This Career Focuses On:

Understanding how environments change over time and how this change affects land, people, and animals.

Claim:

A drought caused the decline of the Mayan civilization. A drought is when it does not rain for a long time and there is not any water source to keep crops alive. As a result, people didn't have enough food to eat. People might have died or abandoned their city-state to move elsewhere to find food.

In addition, when crops die, there isn't a surplus of food. A surplus refers to extra food. This was a problem because people traded their surplus of food for other resources, like stone and wood. Stone and wood were not available where people lived. People needed stone and wood to build homes. Without food to trade, people didn't make money or have access to other resources to build their civilization.

Evidence:

Scientists have analyzed land and water in the Mayan Empire and found that there wasn't much rainfall for many years. Lack of rainfall leads to drought. Drought leads to crops dying.

For more information on results from scientists' studies, go to: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/abrupt-climate-change/Drought%20and%20the%20Ancient%20Maya%20Civilization>

Different Perspectives from Different Professionals

Career:

Agriculturalist

What This Career Focuses On:

Understanding best practices to grow crops and why crops are unable to grow in some areas.

Claim:

Land dried out. Crops were not able to grow. As a result, there wasn't enough food produced to keep the Mayan civilization alive.

Evidence:

Scientists found that the soil the Mayans used most likely lacked key nutrients. As a result, the soil wasn't healthy and crops might have been unable to grow. One reason that the soil might have not been healthy is because crops were planted in the same spot over and over again. This causes the soil to lose its nutrients. As a result, crops began to fail. When crops fail, there isn't enough food for people to eat. Without food, the civilization declined.

Want more information? Check out: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2012/11/121109-maya-civilization-climate-change-belize-science/>

Career:

Geoscientist

What This Career Focuses On:

Analyzing the impact of Earth's processes (like volcanoes or earthquakes) on land and civilizations.

Claim:

Natural disasters, like volcanic eruptions, caused the Mayan civilization to collapse.

Evidence:

Scientists have found evidence that a volcanic eruption occurred. Volcanic eruptions can lead to harsher winters and droughts. As a result, people might have been unable to survive and crops might have been unable to grow.

Want more information? Check out:

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/volcanic-eruption-may-have-plunged-the-maya-into-a-dark-age/>

Career:

Anthropologist

What This Career Focuses On:

Understanding human behavior and culture.

Claim:

Constant fighting among city-states made it hard for city-states to trade goods or get help from each other when they were in trouble.

Evidence:

City-states would trade goods and food, like the cacao plant and tools. By trading items, city-states could have items that they didn't normally have. For example, if one city-state can't grow cacao, it could trade with another city-state that grows cacao. The problem was that city-states would argue over who controlled trade. "Controlling trade" meant that a certain city-state was in charge of deciding who was allowed to trade with each other. Because all of the city-states wanted to be in charge, they started to fight. As a result, city-states stopped traded goods. This meant people couldn't get food when their city-states had a famine, or get other resources like tools or people to do labor.

Steps to Create a Wireframe

Step 1: Read Requirements

- You will be creating an app called "Debate and Decide." The app will allow provide a place for students and professionals to share information, make claims, and debate about historic and current events. Today, you will create a part of the app where people can make claims and debate about the decline of the Mayan civilization. This part of the app will have three parts. The first part of the app is a fact sheet on the decline. The second part is a discussion board. And the third part is a collaboration platform for professionals to work together.
- It is your job to draw what users will see when they go to each part of the app. There will be a list of requirements for each part of the app. Make sure to include all requirements in your drawing.
- You will also include information from the handout, "Different Perspectives From Different People."

Steps to Create a Wireframe

Step 2: Design Part 1 of the App

- The first part of the app will be a screen that has evidence for how the Mayan civilization declined. Kind of like a fact sheet. This evidence is based on the evidence provided on the handout. In the box below, draw out what this screen will look like. Then, write a description of how users will use this part of the app. Make sure to include the following requirements:
 - At least 3 pieces of evidence you think are important to understanding how the Mayan civilization may have declined.
 - A picture or symbol to go with each piece of evidence.
 - Buttons to learn more about each piece of evidence. For example, the button could say, "Learn more."



Write a short description of how users will use this part of the app:

Steps to Create a Wireframe

Step 3: Design Part 2 of the App

- The second part of the app will be a discussion board for students and professionals to chat in. The discussion board should include questions that will spark conversation. An example question could be: "Do you think a drought killed the Mayan?" After you design the look of your discussion board, write a description of how users will use this part of the app. Make sure to include the following requirements:
 - At least 5 questions to spark conversation.
 - Buttons that let people click if they want to answer a question.
 - Another feature that would let people quickly communicate. For example, a hashtag system or emojis.

Write a short description of how users will use this part of the app:

Steps to Create a Wireframe

Step 4: Design Part 3 of the App

- The third part of the app will be a collaboration platform. On this screen, professionals can take claims from each other and combine them to come up with a claim that incorporate more than just their viewpoint. After designing the screen, write a description of how users will use this part of the app. Make sure to include the following requirements:
 - Write 3 suggested claims that could be combined. For example, a volcanic eruption harmed the soil, which led to crops failing.
 - Draw pictures or symbols under the claim that could help someone who cannot read English understand how you are combining the claims.
 - Buttons that would let people agree or disagree with the combined claims.

Write a short description of how users will use this part of the app: