

Lesson 1: Maya Map

Challenge students to locate ancient Maya cities to begin their exploration of the Maya world.

This lesson complements the **Map** puzzle in the **Mayan Mysteries** game. To learn more about the online game, visit www.dig-itgames.com.

Objectives:

- Locate the Maya world on a map
- Identify countries in Central America
- Identify locations of major Maya sites

Materials: The *Maya Map* student [activity sheet](#); world maps

Time Required: 30 minutes

Directions:

1. Introduce students to the Maya civilization by having them locate modern-day countries in Central America and the ancient sites of Caracol, Cerén, Copán, and Tikal.
2. Distribute the *Maya Map* student activity sheet and review the instructions with students. Have students work independently or with partners to locate and label the following:
 - Bodies of water: Caribbean Sea, North Pacific Ocean
 - Modern-day countries: Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras
 - Ancient Maya sites: Caracol (Belize), Cerén (El Salvador), Copán (Honduras), and Tikal (Guatemala)
3. As a follow-up activity, have students work in teams to research and present 10 facts about each ancient Maya site. Students can discover facts about these sites in the **Mayan Mysteries** game.

Answers: *Maya Map* [answer key](#)