

Name _____

Mexican Roots Answer Key

Note: Student answers will vary. Below are sample acceptable responses.

1. The Maya made major contributions to math, astronomy, and writing. They developed a detailed calendar system and recorded information using glyphs.
2. The Aztec built impressive cities and created advanced farming methods such as chinampas. They also developed strong trade networks and a complex government.
3. The Zapotec influenced later cultures through their writing system, architecture, and ceremonial centers. Their city at Monte Alban served as an early model for urban planning in the region.
4. Traditions appear today through festivals, clothing, foods, languages, and crafts that come from indigenous communities. Many modern celebrations include music, dances, and symbols passed down from these groups.
5. Studying indigenous cultures helps people understand how Mexico's ideas, traditions, and societies developed. It shows how ancient knowledge shaped modern beliefs, technology, and cultural identity.

Teacher's Guide

- Review the terms **Maya**, **Aztec**, and **Zapotec** before students begin.
- Encourage students to use specific details rather than general statements.
- Model a strong short answer, showing how to include evidence in 2 to 4 sentences.

Extension Activities

- Have students research one indigenous group and create a fact sheet.
- Invite students to compare an indigenous tradition with a modern Mexican tradition.
- Ask students to write a short reflection about why indigenous knowledge still matters today.