CHICHEN ITZA

BY LAIBAH 4N

FACTS

- CHICHEN ITZA IS A LARGE MAYAN CITY FAMOUS FOR A LARGE, PYRAMID TEMPLE BUILT BY THE MAYA CIVILIZATION.
- IT IS ON THE YUCATAN PENINSULA ABOUT 120 KM TO THE EAST OF MERIDA .
- THERE ARE MANY TEMPLES AND PYRAMIDS AT CHICHEN ITZA.
- TOURISTS, OR VISITORS, WERE ONCE ABLE TO CLIMB SOME OF THE PYRAMIDS, BUT IT WAS QUITE CHALLENGING BECAUSE THE STEPS ARE VERY STEEP AND SMALL.
- SOME OF THE MOST FAMOUS PARTS OF CHICHEN ITZA INCLUDE: EL CASTILLO.
- THIS IS THE LARGEST PYRAMID AT CHICHEN ITZA, AND DEDICATED TO KUKULKAN, THE PLUMED SERPENT. EVERY YEAR ON THE FALL AND SPRING EQUINOX THE SUN HITS THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING MAKING A SHOW OF LIGHT AND SHADOW WHICH LOOKS LIKE A SNAKE ALONG THE STEPS OF THE BUILDING.

TIKAL

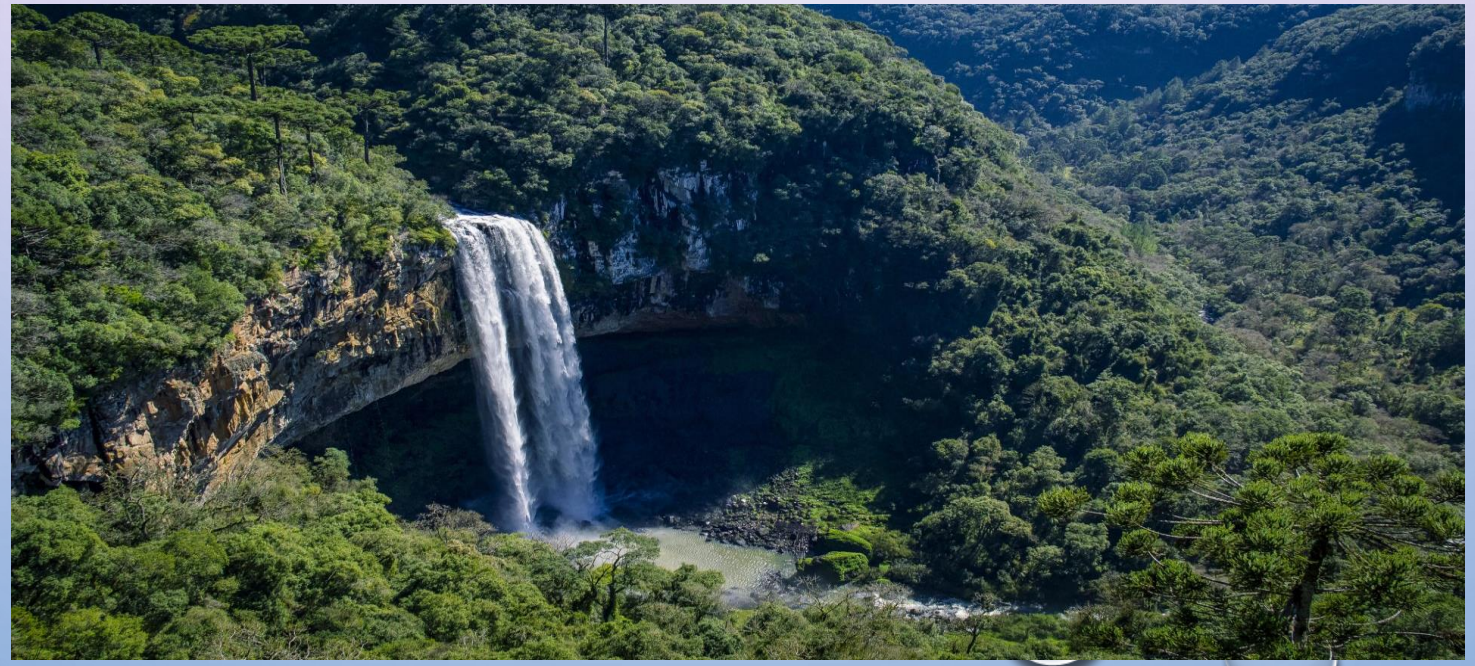
- TIKAL BECAME ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL CITY-STATES IN THE HISTORY OF THE MAYA CIVILIZATION DURING THE CLASSIC PERIOD OF MAYA HISTORY. THE CITY WAS LARGE AND HAD THOUSANDS OF STRUCTURES INCLUDING SIX LARGE PYRAMIDS. THE TALLEST PYRAMID IS CALLED TEMPLE IV AT OVER 230 FEET HIGH. THE CITY LIKELY HAD BETWEEN 60,000 AND 70,000 INHABITANTS DURING ITS PEAK YEARS.

KAMINALJUYU

- KAMINALJUYU WAS A MAJOR CITY-STATE LOCATED IN THE SOUTHERN MAYAN AREA IN THE GUATEMALA HIGHLANDS. THE CITY WAS OCCUPIED FOR AROUND 2000 YEARS FROM 1200 BC TO 900 AD. THE CITY WAS A MAJOR TRADE LOCATION FOR PRODUCTS SUCH AS CACAO, FRUITS, POTTERY, AND OBSIDIAN.
- KAMINALJUYU IS A PRE-COLUMBIAN SITE OF THE MAYA CIVILIZATION THAT WAS PRIMARILY OCCUPIED FROM 1500 BC TO 1200 AD. KAMINALJUYU HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS ONE OF THE GREATEST OF ALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE NEW WORLD BY MICHAEL COE, ALTHOUGH ITS REMAINS TODAY – A FEW MOUNDS ONLY – ARE FAR LESS IMPRESSIVE THAN OTHER MAYA SITES MORE FREQUENTED BY TOURISTS.

CARACOL

- ✓ CARACOL BEGAN AS A CLIENT STATE TO THE POWERFUL CITY-STATE OF TIKAL. IT WAS LOCATED IN WHAT IS NOW THE CAYO DISTRICT OF THE COUNTRY OF BELIZE. AT AROUND THE YEAR 600 AD, CARACOL BROKE AWAY FROM TIKAL AND BECAME A POWERFUL CITY-STATE OF ITS OWN. THE CITY AT ITS PEAK WAS MUCH LARGER THAN THE CAPITAL CITY OF BELIZE IS TODAY. IT COVERED AROUND 200 SQUARE KILOMETERS AND MAY HAVE HAD A POPULATION AS LARGE AS 180,000.



TEOTIHUACAN

- TEOTIHUACAN WASN'T NECESSARILY A MAYA CITY-STATE, BUT WAS A MAJOR CITY-STATE LOCATED IN THE VALLEY OF MEXICO DURING THE TIME OF THE MAYA CIVILIZATION. IT WAS SO POWERFUL THAT IT INFLUENCED MAYA CULTURE, TRADE, AND POLITICS DURING THE CLASSIC PERIOD.

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