What Were the Differences between the Aztecs and the Maya?

Both the Aztecs and Maya were civilisations that lived in modern-day Mexico and Central America. There are many similarities but also differences between the two cultures.

Aztecs

Aztecs were warriors who waged war on their neighbours and made them pay tributes; a successful male warrior had pride of place in society. In Aztec society, human sacrifices happened regularly. The Aztecs were the dominant culture until Spanish explorers arrived in Mexico in 1519.

Maya

Maya were scientific people who studied stars and time. They created a calendar similar to the one we use today. Intelligence and reputation were important qualities for a Maya ruler. They could also be quite violent as blood sacrifices (and some human sacrifices) often occurred. They were dominant around 1000 years before the Aztecs.

Quick Questions

1. When were the Maya a dominant culture?

_____

2. Find two words that tell you that the Maya were **educated**?

_____ _____

3. How does the layout help the reader?

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4. Which era would have been easier to live during? Can you use the text to explain why?

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Quick Questions

1. When were the Maya a dominant culture?
   Accept: The Maya were a dominant culture during the 500s.

2. Find two words that tell you that the Maya were **educated**?
   Accept 'scientific', 'studied' or 'intelligence'.

3. How does the layout help the reader?
   Accept a reasonable explanation that the bold sub-headings make it easier for the reader to find the information they need and make comparisons.

4. Which era would have been easier to live during? Can you use the text to explain why?
   Accept a reasonable explanation linking to the facts given, e.g. Maya because there was less human sacrifice and people valued intelligence over strength.