

Name _____

Date _____

Use a Glossary

Definition

A **glossary** is a reference aid found at the end of a book or document that provides definitions for specialized, technical, or unfamiliar terms used within the text. Entries in a glossary are arranged alphabetically and typically include the term followed by a brief definition specific to how the word is used in that particular text.

Example

Subject Area	Term	Glossary Definition
Science	Photosynthesis	The process by which plants use sunlight to create food from carbon dioxide and water
Literature	Protagonist	The main character in a story
History	Feudalism	A medieval social system based on land ownership and service

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PART 1: Multiple Choice

Read the glossary entries below about Maya pyramid construction, then answer the questions.

Corbeled arch: A type of arch created by stacking stones that gradually project closer together until they meet at the top, used in Maya pyramid entrances and interior chambers.

Limestone: The primary type of stone used by the Maya for pyramid construction, abundant throughout the Yucatán Peninsula.

Sacbe: Raised limestone roads that connected Maya cities and ceremonial centers, often leading to pyramids.

Stela: A carved stone monument placed in front of or near Maya pyramids that recorded important dates, events, and rulers.

Talud-tablero: An architectural style featuring a sloping lower wall (talud) topped by a vertical panel (tablero), commonly used in Maya pyramid construction.

1. Which glossary entry describes a Maya construction technique for creating doorways?

- a) Limestone
- b) Sacbe
- c) Corbeled arch
- d) Stela

2. Based on the glossary entries, which term refers to a type of monument rather than a construction element?

- a) Talud-tablero
- b) Stela
- c) Sacbe
- d) Corbeled arch

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3. If you wanted to learn about Maya transportation infrastructure related to pyramids, which glossary entry would be most helpful?

- a) Limestone
- b) Sacbe
- c) Stela
- d) Talud-tablero

4. Which glossary entry describes a specific architectural style used in Maya pyramids?

- a) Limestone
- b) Corbeled arch
- c) Stela
- d) Talud-tablero

5. Based on the glossary, what material was most commonly used in Maya pyramid construction?

- a) Granite
- b) Marble
- c) Limestone
- d) Sandstone

PART 2: Alphabetical Order

Arrange the following Maya construction terms in correct alphabetical order as they would appear in a glossary.

Masonry

Acropolis

Platform

Limestone

Terracing

Correct order: _____

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PART 3: Creating Glossary Entries

For each Maya pyramid construction term below, write a clear, concise glossary entry that defines the term as it relates to Maya pyramids.

1. Substructure:

2. Temple summit:

3. Hieroglyphic stairway:

4. Astronomical alignment:

5. Facing stones:

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PART 4: Using Context Clues

Read the passage below and use context clues to define the underlined terms as they would appear in a glossary about Maya pyramid construction.

"Maya builders first created a rubble core made of rough stones and earth to form the basic pyramid shape. They then applied stucco, a smooth limestone-based plaster, over the exterior surfaces. Many pyramids featured steep ceremonial staircases that led to the temple precinct at the summit. Maya engineers incorporated acoustic properties into their designs, with some staircases producing echoing sounds that resembled their sacred quetzal bird when someone walked up the steps."

1. Rubble core:

2. Stucco:

3. Ceremonial staircases:

4. Temple precinct:

5. Acoustic properties:

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PART 5: Using the Glossary

Using the glossary entries below, answer the questions that follow.

Caches: Sacred offerings buried within Maya pyramids during construction or renovation, often containing precious objects.

Hieroglyphic panels: Carved stone surfaces with Maya writing that recorded historical events and religious concepts.

Plazuela: A small plaza or courtyard surrounded by structures that formed residential compounds near pyramids.

Substruction: An earlier version of a pyramid over which a newer, larger pyramid was built.

Veneer masonry: A construction technique where thin cut stones were applied over a rubble core to create smooth pyramid surfaces.

1. Based on the glossary entry, why did Maya pyramids sometimes grow larger over time?
2. What glossary term describes the Maya practice of hiding valuable items inside their pyramids?
3. According to the glossary, what construction technique gave Maya pyramids their smooth appearance?
4. Which glossary term describes an area where people lived near pyramids?

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Use a Glossary – Answer Key

PART 1: Multiple Choice

- c) Corbeled arch
- b) Stela
- b) Sacbe
- d) Talud-tablero
- c) Limestone

PART 2: Alphabetical Order

Acropolis, Limestone, Masonry, Platform, Terracing

PART 3: Creating Glossary Entries

Sample answers (student answers may vary but should include key concepts):

1. Substructure: The foundation or earlier pyramid structure over which Maya builders constructed new pyramid layers.
2. Temple summit: The platform at the top of a Maya pyramid where religious ceremonies were conducted and temple buildings were located.
3. Hieroglyphic stairway: A pyramid staircase decorated with carved Maya writing symbols that told stories or recorded important historical events.
4. Astronomical alignment: The positioning of Maya pyramids in relation to celestial bodies such as the sun, moon, or stars to mark important calendar dates.
5. Facing stones: The carefully cut exterior stones that created the visible surface of a Maya pyramid, often decorated with carvings or stucco designs.

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Use a Glossary – Answer Key

PART 4: Using Context Clues

1. Rubble core: The interior structure of a Maya pyramid made of rough stones and earth that formed the basic shape.
2. Stucco: A smooth limestone-based plaster applied over the exterior surfaces of Maya pyramids.
3. Ceremonial staircases: Steep stairways built into Maya pyramids that provided access to the temple at the top and were used for religious purposes.
4. Temple precinct: The sacred area at the summit of a Maya pyramid containing religious structures.
5. Acoustic properties: Sound-related features intentionally built into Maya pyramids, such as staircases designed to produce specific echoes.

PART 5: Using the Glossary

1. Based on the glossary entry for "substruction," Maya pyramids sometimes grew larger over time because new, larger pyramids were built over earlier versions.
2. The term "caches" describes the Maya practice of hiding valuable items inside their pyramids.
3. According to the glossary, "veneer masonry" gave Maya pyramids their smooth appearance.
4. "Plazuela" describes an area where people lived near pyramids.