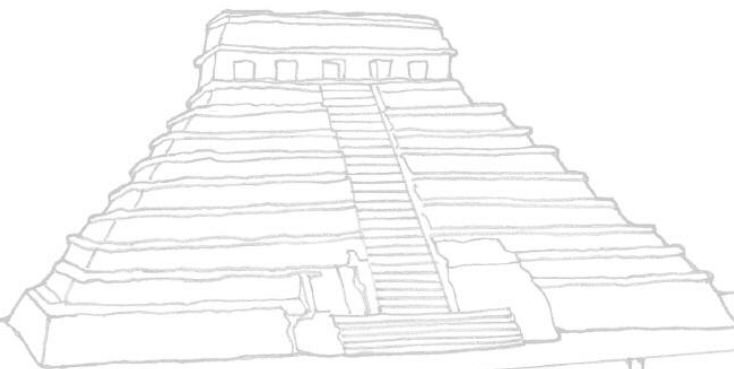




23.6 Agricultural Techniques

In the three “fields” around the Temple of the Inscriptions in Palenque, do the following:

- In the first field, list three crops the Maya planted.
- In the second field, draw and label pictures or describe in words three agricultural techniques used by the Maya. Tell in what kind of environment each was used.
- In the third field, list three theories for the decline of the Mayan civilization. Circle the one you think was most responsible for the decline. Explain your choice.



Possible answers:

Crops	Agricultural Techniques	Theories for Decline of the Mayan Civilization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maize or corn • beans • squash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the mountainous highlands, the Maya used a system of terraces to create more flat land on which to farm. • In the swampy lowlands, the Maya used raised earth platforms surrounded by drainage canals. • In the densely forested lowlands, the Maya used slash-and-burn agriculture to clear land for farming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The population of Mayan cities grew faster than their farming systems could sustain. • There was uncontrolled warfare. • Mayan city-states were invaded by groups from central Mexico. • Drought may have caused massive crop failure.