Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Diego views the ruins as living heritage connected to his own family and farming practices, while archaeologists arrive as outside researchers studying the past. This reveals that indigenous communities hold experiential and cultural knowledge about sites that academic archaeology often overlooks or undervalues.

2. Diego's family has continuously farmed land that incorporates ancient Maya agricultural terraces for generations, demonstrating direct cultural and physical continuity. The myth of Maya disappearance erases living Maya people and their connections to their own history.

Multiple Choice

1. C

2. A

3. C

Matching

1-B, 2-D, 3-A, 4-E, 5-C

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) empire, 2) cenotes, 3) Classic

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: The limestone bedrock of the Yucatan drains rainwater quickly, meaning there are few rivers or surface water sources. Rulers who could control cenotes, build reservoirs, or guarantee water during droughts held tremendous political power over dependent populations.

Q2: After 900 CE, southern lowland cities were abandoned, but Maya civilization continued in the northern Yucatan at cities like Chichen Itza and Uxmal. When the Spanish arrived in 1521, they encountered active, functioning Maya city-states — not ruins.

Q3: Because there was no central Maya government, culture varied significantly by region and period. Archaeologists cannot generalize from one city to the entire Maya world — each site must be studied in its own regional and temporal context, just as ancient Greek city-states each had distinct local traditions.