

## RS1: The evidence bank KQ6

<p><b>A.</b> Too much of the forest was cut down leaving them with too little timber for fuel and building.</p>	<p><b>B.</b> Diseases were common in the tropical rainforests especially those carried by parasites that weakened the victims and spread quickly in the communities.</p>	<p><b>C.</b> Some people think that the Maya population living around Copan rose by 500% in the 300 years before the decline.</p>	<p><b>D.</b> The decline took place over a period of time, not one sudden dramatic event like a volcanic eruption or earthquake.</p>
<p><b>E.</b> There is some evidence that the people of the southern lowlands were invaded by non-Mayan people, but we are not sure where the Maya went after the invasion.</p>	<p><b>F.</b> There were a series of mild droughts between the years 800 and 950. This would have left the people living in the lowlands with very little water as there were no nearby rivers.</p>	<p><b>G.</b> Far from being peaceful, the Mayan city-states went to war frequently, often with each other. This would have had a negative impact on their way of life.</p>	<p><b>H.</b> The Mayan people developed clever ways of gaining as much produce from the land as possible - slash and burn and terracing, irrigation. These methods relied on there being enough rain.</p>
<p><b>I.</b> The growing population in the cities put a great strain on food production, possibly leading to famine.</p>	<p><b>J.</b> The workers who had built all those large cities, some bigger than London and Paris, were growing hungry and felt over-worked. They might have wanted to overthrow the rulers.</p>	<p><b>K.</b> The lack of forest cover led to the soil being eroded and being of poorer quality.</p>	<p><b>L.</b> There were bad droughts at that time. Scientists discovered that the ninth century had been the driest time in the region for 7,000 years.</p>
<p><b>M.</b> The droughts happened mainly during the summer seasons which was, of course, the growing season.</p>	<p><b>N.</b> Climate change caused coastal waters to rise. Those living in flooded areas were forced to move to inland cities putting even more pressure on scarce resources.</p>	<p><b>O.</b> The Maya grew too many crops on the soil leaving it in a poor state so that fewer crops were produced each year.</p>	<p><b>P.</b> There is evidence from the vast number of holes, where the poor people's huts used to be, that the population had grown to be much larger than people first thought.</p>
<p><b>Q.</b> They might have been attacked by neighbouring people because a lot of buildings and stelae showed signs of having been destroyed.</p>	<p><b>R.</b> The forests had been destroyed because the Maya needed the wood for building more houses and for fuel for the increased population.</p>	<p><b>S.</b> When the rulers started to build even more big cities they took men away from the farms which meant that the fields were left in a poor state.</p>	