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Annotated bibliography  
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A bibliography is a list of sources that have been used for research purposes on a topic. Generally, a bibliography only includes the bibliographic information, such as the author, title, and publisher, among others. An annotation is a summary and/or evaluation of a piece of research. Therefore, an annotated bibliography includes a summary and/or evaluation of each source.

This annotated bibliography, consisting of summaries for 10 peer-reviewed scholarly sources, focuses on the gradual decline and eventual collapse of the Maya Civilization.

<https://scholar.google.ca/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C5&q=The+collapse+of+mayan+civilization&btnG=>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/375391a0>

Drought and the Maya:

1. Drought and the Maya: Aimers, J., & Hodell, D. (2011). Drought and the Maya: the collapse of the Maya civilization is often attributed to drought, but is the explanation really as simple as that? On the basis of evidence from their respective fields, an archaeologist and a palaeoclimatologist call for a more nuanced assessment. *Nature*, *479*(7371), 44+. <https://link-gale-com.ezproxy.lakeheadu.ca/apps/doc/A272364688/AONE?u=ocul_lakehead&sid=bookmark-AONE&xid=c88698b6>

During the period known as the Terminal Classic (roughly A.D. 750 to 1050), archeological research on the Mayan Civilization has provided a wealth of information regarding a sharp decline and eventual collapse of the Maya civilization. Evidence to support this have ranged from political events and warfare to climate change and severe drought. The data itself was collected from monuments of conquest, human bone, fauna, and flora, dated via the radiocarbon dating using trace amounts of carbon 14. Interestingly, collapse may not be the correct term to describe the long process of Maya decline, as many similar civilizations experienced similar periods of growth and decline. Nevertheless, arguments derived from this information is a matter of debate because of the complexity of discovered archeological data.

1. Hodell, D., Curtis, J. & Brenner, M. Possible role of climate in the collapse of Classic Maya civilization. *Nature* **375**, 391–394 (1995). <https://doi.org/10.1038/375391a0>

The Maya Civilization developed approximately 3,000 years ago in Mesoamerica, and collapsed around 750 – 900 A.D. after flourishing for many centuries during the Classic Period. Although it has been speculated that drastic changes in climate lead to the collapse, human-led activities such as deforestation have altered regional vegetation in ways which mimic climate shifts, thus making it hard to discern between natural or artificial changes. Primarily, variations in oxygen isotope and sediment composition from a 4.9 meter sediment core in Lake Chichancanab, Mexico was used to construct an accurate climate record of that period in history. In the central Yucatan peninsula where the Mayan Civilization was centered, the driest of the middle-to-late Holocene epoch occurred between 800 – 1,000 A.D., which coincides with the collapse of the Maya Civilization.

**References**

1. Drought and the Maya: Aimers, J., & Hodell, D. (2011). Drought and the Maya: the collapse of the Maya civilization is often attributed to drought, but is the explanation really as simple as that? On the basis of evidence from their respective fields, an archaeologist and a palaeoclimatologist call for a more nuanced assessment. *Nature*, *479*(7371), 44+. <https://link-gale-com.ezproxy.lakeheadu.ca/apps/doc/A272364688/AONE?u=ocul_lakehead&sid=bookmark-AONE&xid=c88698b6>