



Map of the Maya area, showing some of the languages spoken. Courtesy of Victoria R. Bricker.

This period of time, called the Late Postclassic period, is often overlooked in discussions of the Maya, where the emphasis is usually on Classic period cities such as Tikal and Palenque. It is important to note that the Maya did not die out at the time of the “collapse” in the ninth and tenth centuries, but rather that this time period reflects a reorganization of Maya culture. People are often surprised to learn that there are several million Maya living today in Guatemala, the Yucatan peninsula, and parts of Belize and Honduras.