

What's happening in the news this week?



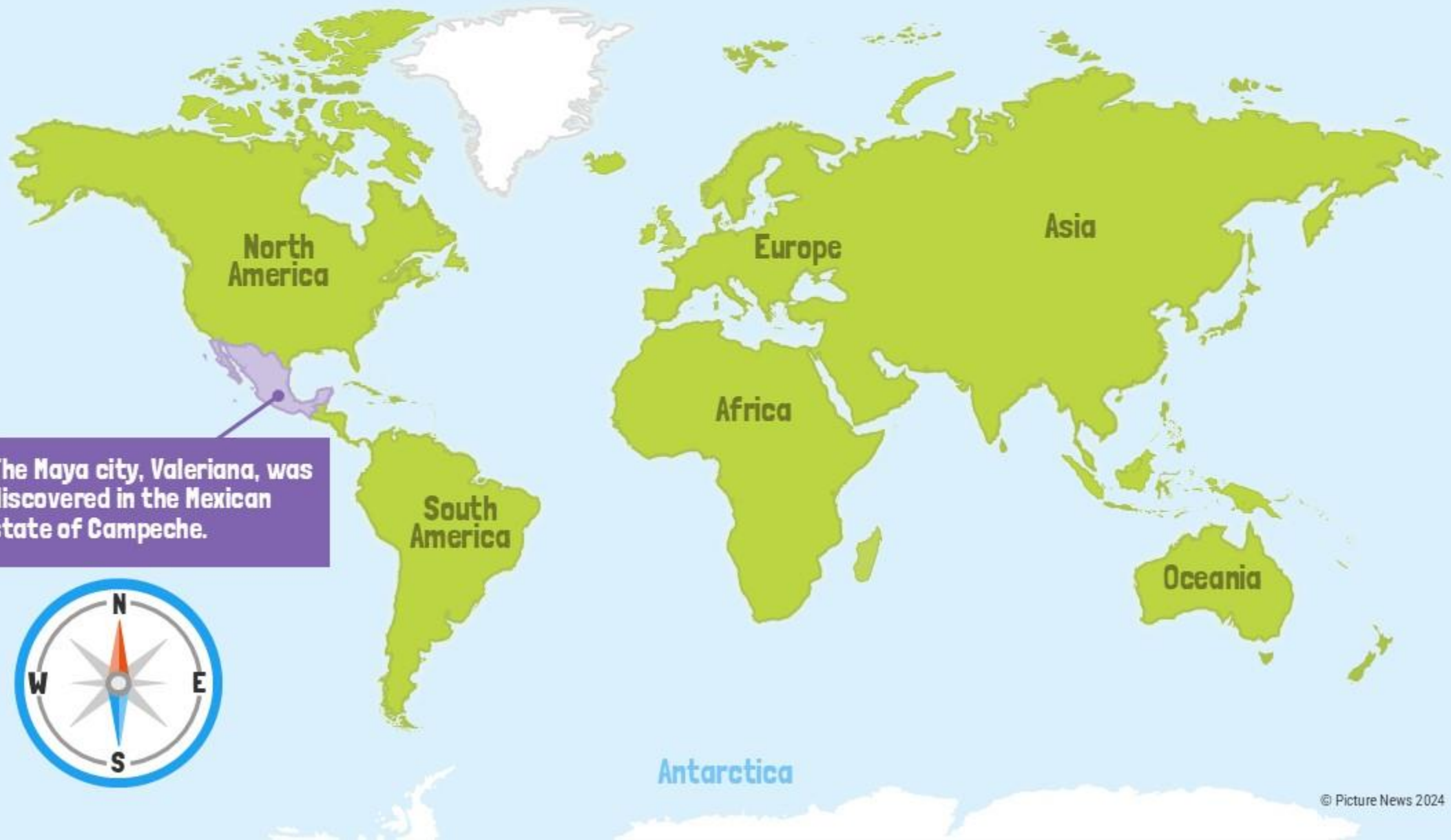
Let's have a look at this week's poster!

18th - 24th November 2024



Why is discovery important?

This week's story looks at events related to ...



Why is discovery important?



A discovery of more than 6,000 ancient Maya structures, including a city of pyramids, has been named Valeriana. Hidden by jungle canopy in the Mexican state of Campeche, the city was discovered by chance. A student at Tulane University, in the US, found the city with the help of Lidar, a light detection technology, that uses lasers to map landscapes.

Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).



Questions

- Think about this week's story and share your initial thoughts and feelings. Archaeologists commented that the city was 'hidden in plain sight'. What do you think this means? How can something as large as a city be right there, yet remain unnoticed for so long?
- For archaeologists, finding a city as large and complex as Valeriana is like finding an enormous piece of the human story. Do you think it's important to learn about people who lived so long ago? Why? What might we learn from their achievements, daily lives, and challenges?





- By studying places like Valeriana, we gain insights into how the Maya adapted to their environment, managed resources, and built thriving communities. How might this knowledge help us solve problems today, such as using resources wisely or building strong communities? What lessons from their lives could be relevant to us now?
- Imagine if, hundreds or thousands of years from now, people study the way we live today. Do you think they could learn anything from us? If so, what?

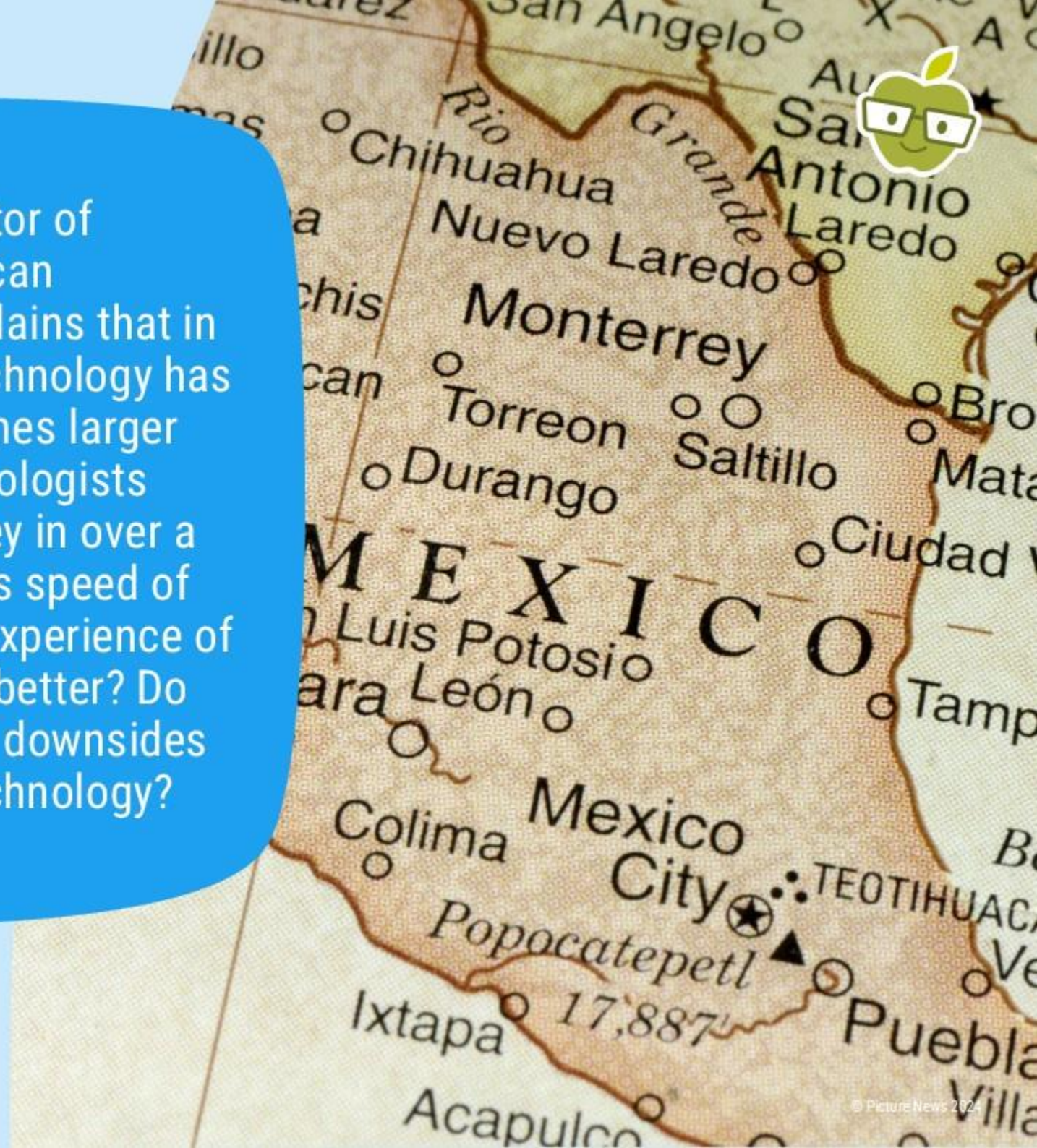


Vital statistics

Researchers say that Valeriana may have been home to 30,000-50,000 people at its peak - an impressive population size, especially considering this is more people than live in the same region today. How might the inhabitants have managed resources like food and water for so many people? What challenges do you think they faced that may have led to the city being abandoned?



Marcello Canuto, director of Tulane's Middle American Research Institute, explains that in just a decade, Lidar technology has mapped an area ten times larger than that which archaeologists have managed to survey in over a century. How might this speed of discovery change the experience of discovery? Is it for the better? Do you think there are any downsides to using this sort of technology?





What others think

Read through and share your responses to the two quotes below.

"The greatest discoveries all start with the question 'Why?'" - Robert Ballard, renowned oceanographer and discoverer of the Titanic wreck.

"One of the downsides of discovering lots of new Maya cities in the era of Lidar is that there are more of them than we can ever hope to study." - Luke Auld-Thomas, PhD researcher.

Further questions for discussion



- Do you think there could still be other ancient cities, artefacts, or even whole cultures that are hidden from us? What places might still hold secrets?
- Many archaeologists believe there is always more to learn. Do you agree? Why might it be important to keep exploring and learning about our past?





Why is discovery important?

Reflection



Throughout history many discoveries have been made that have helped shape the world. They have changed the way we perceive the world and how things are done in the future.





Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Learning about the people, who lived in the past and live across the world today, can help us understand and celebrate how different we all are!

Protected Characteristics



The culture of Maya people today has been shaped by the ancient Maya civilisation.

Nobody should be treated unfairly because of their ethnic group (people with a shared history and culture) or nationality.



Sex



Sexual
Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender
Reassignment



Marriage and
Civil Partnership



Pregnancy
and Maternity



Race



Religion
or Belief



UN Rights of the Child



We have the right to get information from the internet, radio, television, newspapers, books and other sources. They can help us discover more about our world!



LET'S DISCUSS



18th - 24th November

This week's news story

www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crmznzkly3go

This week's useful video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXVL395hvfA

In the news this week

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Notes



Picture: Ancient Mayan Ruins at Tikal in Guatemala. Source: Canva.

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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 **Listen**

 **Think**

 **Share**

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