

PhD student discovers lost Maya city in Mexico

Vocabulary Match

PhD ● Lidar ● technology ● canopy ● pyramids ● causeways ●
● laser ● cover ● paths ● science ● temples ● degree

Article

A PhD student, Luke Auld-Thomas, found a lost Maya city in the jungle of Campeche, Mexico. The city, named Valeriana, was discovered using Lidar technology, which uses lasers to map structures hidden under trees. This city has pyramids, sports fields, and causeways, and it might have been home to 30,000-50,000 people between 750 and 850 AD.

Auld-Thomas found the city by accident while looking at data online. He said, "I was on something like page 16 of Google search."

The discovery shows that the Maya lived in complex cities, not just small villages. The city was hidden close to a main road, and no one has visited it yet. This finding suggests that many more ancient Maya cities may still be hidden beneath the jungle canopy, awaiting discovery.

Quiz

1. What is the name of the lost Maya city?
2. How was the city discovered?
3. How many people might have lived in the city?
4. Where was the city hidden?

Conversation

A: Wow, you found a whole city by accident?
B: Yeah, I was just browsing online!
A: That's incredible! Were you even looking for cities?
B: Not really, just got lucky on page 16 of Google.
A: So, when are you going to visit Valeriana?
B: Soon, I hope! I just need to find my hiking boots.

Discussion

1. How often do you use Google Search, and how many pages do you browse through?
2. What would you do if you discovered a lost city?
3. Do you like exploring new places? Why or why not?
4. If you could visit an ancient city, which one would you choose?