

Maya

Civilisation



Quick Facts



- The Maya civilisation began in 'Mesoamerica'.
- They built amazing cities like Tikal and Palenque.
- Even though they lived in different cities, ruled by different kings and queens, the Mayas shared a lot of common beliefs and traditions.
- They were experts at reading the stars and even built their cities as a map of the sky!

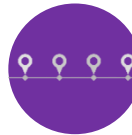


Vocabulary



Civilisation	An advanced stage of development of a society as judged by such things as having a system of government and laws, using a written language, and keeping written records.
Agriculture	The science and work of raising crops and farm animals.
Ritual	A ceremony, often religious, with set actions performed in a set order
Pyramid 	A huge stone structure that is shaped like a pyramid. Pyramids were built long ago as tombs in Egypt and as temples in Mexico.
Warrior	A person who fights or has experience in battle.
Astronomer	Person who studies stars.
Sacrifice	The act of giving up something of great value to show loyalty or deep affection.

Timeline



2000 BC: The Maya civilisation comes to Central America.
300 BC: Cities, such as El Mirador, become large and powerful.
AD 900: Cities in the rainforest are abandoned due to an extensive drought.
AD 1000: Cities like Chichén Itzá are still thriving.
AD 1500s: The Spanish arrive in South America and set out to destroy the remaining elements of Maya civilisation as part of their conquest.
AD 2014: The cities of Lagunita and Tamchén are rediscovered.

Impact



The Mayas were scholars who invented their own system of writing and were skilled astronomers and mathematicians.

Religion- The Maya believed in and worshipped a number of different gods. The Maya would dance, sing and sometimes make sacrifices. Priests were very important in Maya society as it was believed that they could communicate directly with the gods.

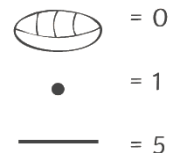
Calendar- They created a calendar similar to the one we use today.



Writing- The Maya writing system, used to write several different Maya languages, was made up of over 800 symbols called glyphs.



Numbers- The Maya developed a complex number and counting system that was advanced for their time. They were one of only two cultures in the world to develop the concept of zero.



Food- Maize was a very important crop that formed up to 80% of the Maya people's diets.

Surrounding Chronology

