



The Mayans

The Maya lived in Mesoamerica, comprised of present-day southern México, Guatemala, Belize, parts of Honduras and El Salvador.

The Mayans or Maya people made their home in an area known as Meso-America (modern day Mexico and Central America).

Mayan culture was well established by 1000BC and it lasted until 1697AD.

0	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19

The Mayan Number System



Mayan hieroglyphics



Mayan Long Count Calendar



El Castillo temple at Chichén Itzá

2000 BC - The first Maya people emerged. Mayan farming begins.

750BC - The first Mayan cities are built.

250BC - The first Mayan hieroglyphics.

100BC - City states begin to form, with powerful leaders. The first pyramids are built.

219AD - The first king of Tikal: Vax Moch Xob.

615-603AD - The rule of Pakal the great in Palenque.

400AD - The first Mayan calendars are carved into stone.

800AD - The city of Tikal has around 100,000 people.

800-850AD - The huge stepped pyramid, El Castillo, is built at Chichén Itzá

800-870AD - Many city states (e.g. Copan, Tikal) start to disappear.

909AD - The last recorded evidence of classic Maya.

Chitzen Itza

The Maya people of Chitzen Itza were very clever and had constructed a temple of the warriors, pyramids and the Great Ball Court. The Chitzen Itza was once a major cultural site for its people, and is now a major archaeological site for tourists and enthusiasts alike.



Death rituals

Death rituals were an important part of Maya religion. The Maya greatly respected death; they were taught to fear it and grieved deeply for the dead. They also believed that certain deaths were more noble than others.



Sacrifices



Humans were sacrificed for new buildings or new Maya ruler. The sacrifice of an enemy king was the most prized offering. They were decapitated as well as a ritual decapitation of the maize god by the Maya death gods.

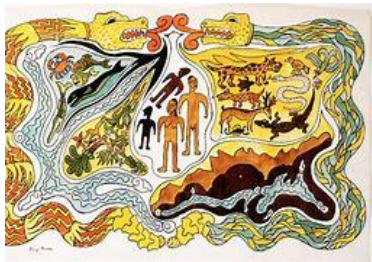
Pok-a-Tok

It was a ball game played throughout the Mayan civilisation. Ball courts were found in ceremonial centres. The game is linked to the movement of the sun and moon as well as agricultural seasons. The game was played for fun, during festivals or special events such as a ruler becoming king, or to replace war.



Creation Story

It is believed that creators, Heart of Sky and other gods created human beings out of yellow corn. Therefore, corn is sacred in the Mayan culture.



Housing

Mayan Housing had **walls made of stone or mud**. These huts were covered with hay providing protection from things such as rain and snow. These homes usually had one or two sets of stairs usually long and wide. To decorate these buildings the Mayans placed sculptures along the stairs.



Farming

- Slash and burn agriculture – Sow and harvest then leave for 15 years to fallow.
- Raised beds alongside canals
- In mountainous areas, the Maya made terraces on the steep hillsides. Small fields are cut into a hillside and held with a retaining wall.

Chocolate

- Cocoa beans were an important part of the **Mayan** diet used by nobles.

