

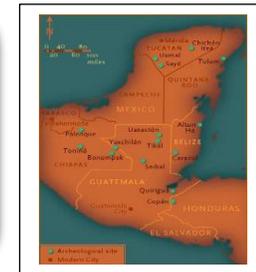


The Maya - Is it possible to build a civilisation in a rainforest?

Can you place historical events and people from the past in chronological order?

Can you summarise the main events from a period of history, explaining the order of events and what happened?

Can you present to an audience the main features of certain historical events?



Timeline

Year 1,100 BC	800BC	700BC	100BC - 450AD	638AD	800AD - 1,502AD
<p>The first 'Mayan' settlements begin to appear in Mesoamerica along the pacific coast.</p> 	<p>Instead of foraging, maize farming begins and trade between villages begins.</p> 	<p>Mayan writing begins to develop through the form of hieroglyphs.</p> 	<p>Maya constructs its first pyramids and developing cities, prompting the rapid rise of Tikal in the tropical lowlands.</p> 	<p>Pakal the Great (King of Palenque) dies. His death mask made of jade is created.</p> 	<p>Mayan civilization begins to decline and vanish, The Mayan ruins are found by a Spanish expedition lead by Francisco Hernández de Córdoba.</p>

Key Vocabulary

Mesoamerica	The region in which the Maya lived, spanning over Mexico and parts of Southern America.
Pyramid	A man-made structure that is built through large cuboids of rock piled upon one another to form a triangular shape.
Hieroglyph	A symbol that has a worded meaning, read like our graphemes.
Maize	Corn - a major resource of food for Mayan people. Part of their religious culture too.
Sacrifice	A slaughtering of an animal or human as an offering to please the gods.
Stelae	Stones or wooden posts, which have writing on.
Civilisation	Human society, which is organised.
Artefact	An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.
Kingdom	A place ruled by a king, queen or important person.
Empire	A group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country.

Famous People and Places

- Chichen Itza** is a well-preserved example of a Mayan city, located in what would have been Mesoamerica. It is a popular tourist destination as it shows a series of Mayan sculptures, pyramids and natural water sources through sinkholes.
- Tikal** One of the most powerful city states. Had 6 large pyramids - 70,000 inhabitants
- At the site of **Copan**, on the stairway, there are 2,200 individual glyphs representing the major rulers of the Copan dynasty. It is the longest made Mayan hieroglyphic text.
- Itzamna**, the name of an upper god. The creator thought to reside in the sky.
- Chaac** is the Mayan god of rain. The Maya believed that please their gods they should sacrifice animals or humans. If they were experiencing a drought, the belief was that Chaac was punishing them.
- The Hero Twins** - part of the creation story.

General Knowledge

The Mayans believed in three realms - heaven, earth and the underworld.

The Mayan civilisation did not abruptly collapse, it was a slow decline.

The Mayans created spectacular temples and pyramids without the use of metal tools, wheels and domesticated beasts.

Ceremonial masks were used for many purposes but mainly funerals, to protect noblemen in the afterlife.

The Ancient Maya lived in an area called Mesoamerica.

The Mayans predicated that the world would end in 2012.

Mayan society had a clear hierarchy.

The Mayans were excellent astronomers and mathematicians and had their own number system.

The Mayans had 3 calendars.

Mayan food was local to their region and we have since gained access to many recognizable foods.

Pok-a-Tok - a Mayan ball game played with a rubber ball. Losers of the game were often sacrificed.