

Wimbledon Chase Primary School - History

Topic: Maya Empire

Year:6

Corner Stones; Cognition - Community - Collaboration

What should I already know?

- The location of Central and South America
- To be able to place the Maya Empire into a chronology
- The words; artefact, primary source, and secondary source

Facts about the Maya Empire

- The Mayans predicted the world would end in 2012
- Flat foreheads were fashionable, so they would put a baby's head into a press to squash it
- It was considered beautiful to be cross-eyed, so parents would hand balls in-between their children's eyes to make them look inwards
- Mayans sacrificed humans for religious and medical reasons. It was an honour to be sacrificed.
- Noblewomen would file their teeth into sharp points.
- The Mayans were inventors. Their inventions included; calendars, farming methods, writing systems, sports and religion.



Key Figures:

- K'inich Janaab' Pakal I was a ruler of Palenque, and he made the city into a powerful state. He ruled for 68 years.
- Jasaw Chan K'awiil was a prominent ruler of the Maya civilization. He was responsible for bringing the city of Tikal back to life.
- Apoxpalon, was a trader. He established in 1525, a system to raise merchants to high positions in authority. This was known as the Chontal Maya System.
- Jacento Canek, was an 18th-century revolutionary, who fought against the Spanish on the Yucatan Peninsula.
- Tecan Uman, was the last ruler of the K'iche' Maya people in the highlands.

Vocabulary

Ahau	The king of a Maya city-state
Astrology	The study of the movements of the stars and planets, and how they might affect people
Calendar	A system of calculating the days, weeks, months and of the year
Dynasty	A series of rulers or leaders, who are all from the same family
Empire	A group of counties ruled by a single person or country
Hieroglyphs	A system of writing using pictures not words
Itzamna	The main god of the Maya. They were the god of fire and created the earth
Kin	Word representing a day in the Maya calendar
Maize	Also known as corn, a cereal grain.
Uinal	Word for a month in the Maya calendar, it was 20 days long
Vigesimal	A number counting system based on 20s

Timeline

1100 BCE Hunter gatherers settle along the Pacific coast

Circa 700 BCE The Mayan system of writing is developed

100 BCE The first Maya pyramids were built

Circa 600 CE An unknown event destroys Teotihuacan. Tikal becomes the largest city-state.

1000 CE Chichen Itza is the most powerful city.

1541 CE The Spanish finally subdue the Maya and put an end to Maya resistance.

Circa 1100 BCE permanent settlements started to appear

250 CE Beginning of the Classical period

900 CE Lowland cities are abandoned

1502 CE First contact with Europe

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Maya Worship

- Mayan gods could change themselves into human and animal shapes.
- Priests performed ceremonies to keep the gods happy.
- The Maya (Mayans) thought the world was divided into three parts, the Heavens, the Earth, and the Underworld, all linked together by a giant World Tree.
- Mayan kings were thought to become gods after their death
- The Maya believed in hundreds of different gods who ruled people's lives and decisions
- The lives of the Maya revolved around religion, they had many ceremonies and rituals
- As well as gifts, the Maya believed that they had to offer blood sacrifices to appease the gods



Question 1 :
What were the Maya pyramids for?

Question 5:
What were Maya books called?



Scrolls
Lexicons
Albums
Codices

Question 2:
How many parts did the Maya think the world was divided into?
What were the three parts?

Question 3:
What is Pok-a-Tok?

Question 6:
What was the favourite drink of the Maya?

Question 4:
Which of these were a part of the Maya diet?

Radishes	Quinoa
Maize	Raspberries
Squash	Beetroot

Question 7:
Who was the Maya god of war?
Buluc Chabtan
Odin
Sekhmet
Ares



Ek Chuaj



Kukulcan



Ix Chel



Yumil Kaxob



Chac



Ah Puch