

MAYANS

Year 5

History

Key Vocabulary

Ancient: Belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence.

Astronomy: The branch of science which deals with space and the physical universe as a whole.

Chichen Itza: One of the best-preserved examples of a Mayan city

Deity: A synonym for God

Legend: A story that has a religious origin using comprising of mortal vs immortal being.

Hieroglyph: A symbol that has a worded meaning, like our written writing today.

Maize: Corn—a major resource of food for Mayan people. Part of their religious culture.

Maya: the collective noun for the Mayan people.

Mesoamerica: the region in which the Maya lived, spanning over Mexico and parts of southern America.

Summary

Centres around the country now known as Guatemala, the Maya Empire was at its most powerful around 600 A.D. They Maya are known for their skilled agriculture, pottery, hieroglyphic writing, calendar making and mathematics. They left behind an impressive amount of architecture and symbolic artwork. The Maya were deeply religious and worshiped various gods. They performed elaborate religious rituals and ceremonies in order to please them.

Timeline

1100 BC Hunter gatherers settle along the Pacific coast.

1100 BC Settlements begin to appear.

700 BC Maya writing is developed

100 BC The first Maya Pyramids are built.

900 -1200 AD El Castillo is built.

250 AD Beginning of the Classic Period.

1000 AD Chichen Itza is the most powerful city.

1502 AD First contact with Europe.



Map



Chichen Itza is probably the most visited Mayan ruins in Mexico, since being named one of the New Wonders of the World. It stands at 75 feet tall and was built for astronomical/sacrificial

Language

Hello: Ba'ax ka wa'alik

Welcome: Kilmak 'oolal

Goodbye: Taak ulak k'iin

Thank you: Dios bo'otik

Top 5 Maya Facts

The Mayans predicated that the world would end in 2012.

Flat foreheads were fashionable so they would put baby's heads in a press to squash them.

It was considered beautiful to be cross-eyed so parents would hang 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.