

History Knowledge Organiser

The rise and fall of The Maya civilisation.



Term: Spring 2
Year 5

Maya civilisation



Maya were Mesoamerican Indians occupying a nearly continuous territory in southern Mexico, Guatemala, and northern Belize. They were hunter gatherers.

Mesoamerica



The region of Mexico and Central America once occupied by the Maya, Aztecs and other ancient cultures.

Maya cities



At its height, Mayan civilisation consisted of more than 40 cities, each with a population between 5,000 and 50,000. Among the principal cities were Tikal, Uaxactún, Copán, Bonampak, Dos Pilas, Calakmul, Palenque, and Río Bec.

Maya hierarchy



Maya society was organised depending on how important the person was. The king was at the top. The king's family, nobles and other leaders came next. They were followed by craftsmen, merchants, farmers and slaves

Maya calendar



The Maya were expert mathematicians and astronomers. They used their studies to devise highly complex calendars.

Maya writing



The Maya writing system was used to write several different Maya languages. It was made up of many symbols called glyphs. The glyphs were carved on stone buildings and monuments and painted on pottery. Maya scribes also wrote books called codices.

Maya society

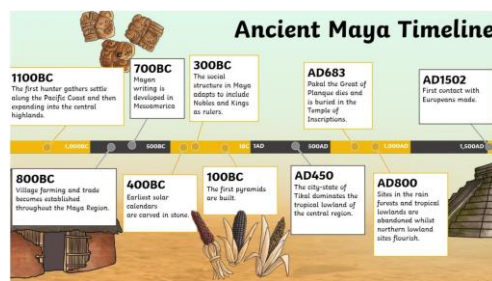


In the Pre Classic era, rule was predominantly through a village elder. Gradually, the Maya adopted a hierarchical governmental system with rule by monarch and the aristocracy.

Vocabulary Tier 2

- plaza
- temple
- calendar
- civilisation
- pyramid
- settlement
- farming
- city states
- drought
- population
- famine
- descendant
- declining
- citizen
- native
- Abandonment
- hierarchy

The Maya first developed their civilisation in around 2000BC – The Pre-Classic Period. This period from 250 AD to c900 AD is called The Classic Period. In approximately 1600 AD – The Post-Classic Period – The Maya were conquered and destroyed by the Spanish invaders. During the Maya civilisation, Britain went through The stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages, including Stonehenge to Roman Britain, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Tudor England.



Vocabulary Tier 3

- Mesoamerica
- Maya
- Codices
- Glyph
- Hieroglyphics



THINK IT.



BELIEVE IT.



LOVE IT.