



The Magnificent Maya



<u>1100 BC</u> Hunter gatherers settle along the Pacific coast.	<u>1100 BC</u> Settlements begin to appear.	<u>700 BC</u> Maya writing is developed.	<u>100 BC</u> The first Maya pyramids are built.	<u>900-1200 AD</u> El Castillo is built.	<u>250 AD</u> Beginning of the Classic Period	<u>1000 AD</u> Chichen Itza is the most powerful city.	<u>1502 AD</u> First contact with Europe.
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What did the Ancient Maya believe?

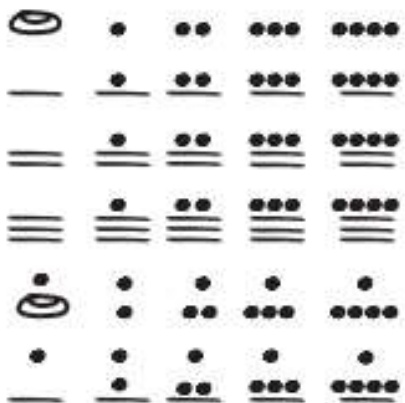
- Religion was very important to the Ancient Maya people. Their impressive temples are evidence of that.
- The Ancient Maya worshipped their kings as though they were gods but they also worshipped their ancestors and a range of different gods and goddesses.
- The Mayans had gods for everything: sun, moon, rain, water, farming, life, death, maize, lightning and many more. In their opinion, the gods controlled everything and they told many stories about them.



Mayan Maths





The Mayans had their own number system which had symbols for 0, 1, 5 and 20.

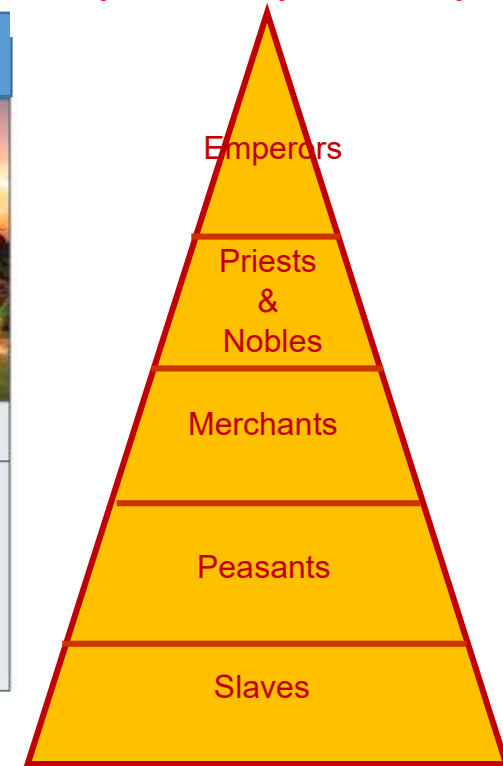
The system worked on groups of 20, unlike our system which works with groups of 10.



Mayan Society Hierarchy

Significant Places

			
Central America	Tikal	Chichen Itza	Palenque
Central America is a region found in the southern tip of North America, where the continent joins with South America. The Ancient Maya were one of the great civilizations located in this part of the world.	Tikal is the ruin of a great Ancient Maya city which may have been called Yax Mutal. It is located in a rainforest in modern day Guatemala and was one of the most powerful Maya cities. The Tikal Temple is 47 metres high.	Chichen Itza was built by the Ancient Maya in the Northern Lowlands. It was one of the largest cities and in the centre is the Temple of Kukulcan.	Palenque was an Ancient Maya city-state found in modern day Southern Mexico. It is smaller than Tikal and Chichen Itza but has some of the best architecture and carvings. Pakal the Great ruled here.



The story of the Hero Twins is one of the most famous Mayan myths. Twin boys liked to trick people who were bothering them. So, the Lords of Death sent an invitation inviting them to play a ball game in the underworld. They had to pass lots of tests and rituals to avoid death however they tricked the Lord of Deaths and survived!



Vocabulary List	
Artefact	An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.
Calendar	A printed table showing all the days, weeks and months of the year.
Civilisation	Human society which is organised.
Dynasty	A series of rulers or leaders who are all from the same family, or a period when a country is ruled by them.
Empire	A group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country.
Hieroglyphics	A system of writing using pictures not words.
Kingdom	A place ruled by a king, queen or important person.
Maize	Also known as corn, is a cereal grain.
Prediction	A statement about what you think will happen in the future.
Temple	A building used for the worship of a god or gods in some religions.
Tomb	A large stone structure or underground room where someone, especially an important person, is buried.
Worship	To have or show a strong feeling or respect and admiration for a God or Goddess.