

The Maya Civilisation

Vocabulary

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.
civilization	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 word
kingdom	A place ruled by a king, queen or important person
maize	Maize, also known as corn, is a cereal grain
prediction	A statement about what you think will happen in the future
temple	uilding 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 of respect and admiration for God or a god

Our Class text



Timeline

- 2000BC – Farming villages appear
- 1000BC – Larger settlements are created.
- 700BC – Maya writing begins developing
- 400BC – First Maya calendars are carved into stone.
- 100BC – First pyramids are built.
- 400AD – Many people live in a capital city. 925AD – Chichen Itza becomes capital city. 1517AD – The Spanish arrive and begin their colonisation of Central America



Key knowledge

The Maya were a civilisation who lived in Mesoamerica (now Central America) between approximately 2000 BCE and 900CE.

They are known for being the first Mesoamericans to develop writing. They also had a sophisticated culture in which they lived in city states

They built spectacular monuments and stepped pyramids – some (e.g. Chichen Itza) have become world tourist destinations in the modern day

They were also well-known for their advanced maths and calendars. Around 900CE, Maya cities became abandoned. No one knows for sure why this happened