

Prior Learning

Children have been taught an overview of some of the first civilisation, including Ancient Sumer and the Shang Dynasty, and studied their writing systems, mathematical findings and inventions.

Mayans

Key Facts

- Mayans believed gods ruled every aspect of their lives.
- Mayans played deadly ball games where the losing side's captain could be sacrificed to the gods. They played ball games to keep the gods happy.
- Each Mayan city had its own king, who had nobles to help him run the city state. This type of society is called an absolute monarchy.
- The Mayans has their own language and writing system including numbers. They invented the concept of the number zero.

Vocabulary

Conquistadors— Spanish explorers.

Mesoamerica— is the land between North and South America.

Archaeologist— a person who uses objects and buildings that people in the past have left behind to learn about history.

Chichen Itza— a Mayan city.

El Castillo— is a Mayan temple.



The Maya civilisation began long ago in a place called 'Mesoamerica'. This

huge area is made up of Mexico and part of Central America

Ancient Maya Timeline

1100BC

The first hunter gathers settle along the Pacific Coast and then expanding into the central highlands.

700BC

Mayan writing is developed in Mesoamerica

300BC

The social structure in Maya adapts to include Nobles and Kings as rulers.

AD683

Pakal the Great of Planque dies and is buried in the Temple of Inscriptions.

AD1502

First contact with Europeans made.

1,000BC

500BC

1BC

1AD

500AD

1,000AD

1,500AD

800BC

Village farming and trade becomes established throughout the Maya Region.

400BC

Earliest solar calendars are carved in stone.

100BC

The first pyramids are built.

AD450

The city-state of Tikal dominates the tropical lowland of the central region.

AD800

Sites in the rain forests and tropical lowlands are abandoned whilst northern lowland sites flourish.