

MAYA

Important information

The Maya were an ancient civilisation of people who lived in an area that used to be known as Mesoamerica. but which is now the countries of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Belize.

The Mayan civilisation and culture was well established by 1000 BCE, and it lasted until 1697 CE. All Maya shared a common culture and religion, but each city governed itself and had its own noble ruler.

Mayan religion was based on the belief of many different gods. Sacrifices were often made to these gods, during rituals and ceremonies. The Maya believed in an afterlife and that those who were sacrificed, as well as those killed in war and women who died in childbirth, went to 'the place of the misty sky'.

Questions to think about

When did the preclassic period begin and end?

When did the classic period begin and end?

When did the post classical period begin and end?

How did the Maya develop such an advanced civilisation?

What id the Maya use for money?

KEY VOCABULARY

Maya	Calendar
Civilisation	Astronomy
Settlement	Cacao beans
Ritual	Hieroglyphs
Sacrifice	Society
Hierarchy	Archaeologist
Monument	Prelassic
Temple	Classic
Jungle	Post Classic
Pyramid	Trade
Ocelot	Exchange
Jaguar	Priest
Priest	
Warrior	
King	