

HISTORY: Ancient Maya

Date	900-300BC	800BC	700BC	400BC	300BC	100BC	450AD	800AD	1500 AD	1800 AD
Event	The first hunter gatherers settle on the Pacific coast	The Maya people are farming and trading	Maya writing is developed	The earliest solar calendars are developed	Nobles and kings become rulers of Maya states and provinces	The first Maya pyramids are built	King Pakal dies and is buried in the Temple of Inscriptions	Sites in the rainforest are abandoned. Northern cities continue to grow.	The Spanish discover the Maya regions	Frederick Catherwood explores the Maya regions



Key Vocabulary

Term	Definition
century (noun)	A period of one hundred years.
civilisation (noun)	A human society that is advanced. A civilisation contains highly developed forms of government, culture and thinking.
Mesoamerica (noun)	Defined by the similar cultural traits.
ancestor (noun)	A family member that lived a long time ago.
province (noun)	A part of a country/region that has its own government or ruler.
archaeology (noun)	The study of ancient sites and objects to learn about the past.
pok-ta-pok (noun)	A ball game.
glyphs (noun)	A figure or character that used for writing. It can stand for syllables and whole words.
stelae (noun -plural)	Tall, sculpted stone pillars.

Key facts

‘Maya’ refers to the people, places and culture. ‘Mayan’ refers to language.

The Maya is split into four different periods:

- pre-classic: 2000BC – 250AD
- classic period: 250AD – 900AD
- post-classic period: 900AD – 1500
- contact and Spanish Conquest: 1542AD – 1697AD

There were a variety of Maya states and provinces throughout Mesoamerica, these included Iximche (in the highlands) and Tikal (in the lowlands).

What were the achievements of the Ancient Maya Civilisation?

How were cities and daily life similar and different throughout the different provinces and states?

How was the Ancient Maya life different to the life of those who lived in Britain?

“History is a version of past events that people have decided to agree upon.” – Napoleon Bonaparte

Key Figures and Cities

King Pakal	Tikal
	
Chichen Itza	Frederick Catherwood
	

