

Mayan Civilisation c. AD 900: KS2 Knowledge Mat

Subject Specific Vocabulary	
Hieroglyphs	Symbols used in the Mayan writing system. Each symbol represents a word or sound.
Codex/codices	Books created by the Mayans. They were made of soft bark and folded like a fan. A codex is one book. Codices is the plural.
Civilisation	A society, culture and way of life of a particular area. It usually refers to a society that has reached a high level of development and organisation.
Base 20	A maths system based on 20, not 10 like us
Telae	Carved standing stones that represented the major events in a ruler's life such as accession to the throne, marriage, conquest and so on.
Calendar round	the way that the Maya marked time.
Itzamna	The main god of the Maya, Itzamna was the god of fire who created the Earth.
Civilisation	A society, culture and way of life of a particular area. It usually refers to a society that has reached a high level of development and organisation.
Culture	shared behaviour such as diet, language, clothing, tools, music, arts, customs, beliefs, and religion, which are shared by a group of people or society
Architecture	the design of buildings. Maya architecture is



Sticky Knowledge about the Mayan civilization

The Maya Empire was an ancient civilisation. They lived in Mexico (southern Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula), Belize, Guatemala, a small area of west Honduras and the very north of El Salvador. The civilisation began in around 2000BC and reached the peak of its power around 500-600AD.

The Maya had their own number system which used just three symbols. They also had a writing system using symbols called hieroglyphs. They wrote in books made out of the bark of fig trees. One book was called a codex and the plural is codices.

The Maya had different types of calendars. They had the Tzolk'in calendar which was a 260 day calendar used to determine the time of sacred events. They had the Haab calendar which was a 365 day calendar, was made up of months and was based on the sun. They also had the Long Count which was their absolute dating system, similar to the BC/AD dating system that we use today..

The Maya believed in and worshipped a number of different gods. They believed that the gods had a good side and a bad side and that they could help or hurt them. The Maya would dance, sing and sometimes make offerings of blood to the gods to demonstrate their respect and loyalty.

Frederick Catherwood was a British artist and architect, known for his detailed drawings of the

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