



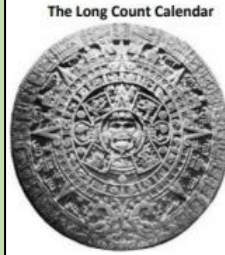
# Temples of Doom: The Maya Civilisation



What impact did the Maya have on our world?

## Summary

Centred around the country now known as Guatemala, the Maya Empire was at its most powerful around 600 A.D. The Maya are known for their skilled agriculture, pottery, hieroglyphic writing, calendar making and mathematics. They left behind an impressive amount of architecture and symbolic artwork. The Maya were deeply religious and worshiped various gods. They performed elaborate religious rituals and ceremonies in order to please them.



The Long Count Calendar

## The Mayan Number System

0	1	2	3	4
	•	••	•••	••••
5	6	7	8	9
—	•	••	•••	••••
10	11	12	13	14
—	•	••	•••	••••
15	16	17	18	19
—	•	••	•••	••••

## Top 5 Maya Facts

1. The Maya played the earliest team sport in the world!
2. Flat foreheads were fashionable so they would put baby's heads in a press to squash them.
3. It was considered beautiful to be cross-eyed so parents would hang balls in-between their children's eyes to make them look inwards.
4. The Maya sacrificed humans for religious and medical reasons. It was an honour to be sacrificed!
5. Noblewomen would file their teeth into sharp points.

## Vocabulary List

ancient	Belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence.
astronomy	The branch of science which deals with space and the physical universe as a whole.
cacao	Seeds that they Maya used to make chocolate.
cenote	A sinkhole or pit filled with water. They were sources of water for the Maya.
Chichen Itza	The most powerful city.
civilisation	The society, culture and way of life of a particular area.
Classic Period	The golden age of the Maya civilization.
glyph	A symbol used in writing.
Itzamma	The main god of the Maya who created the Earth.
Mesoamerica	The region in which the Maya lived, spanning over Mexico and parts of Southern America.
Popol Vuh	A book or codex that described Maya religion and mythology.
pyramid	The Maya built step pyramids with flat tops. At the top, they built a temple to their gods.
sacrifice	To give up something valued for the sake of something else.
settlement	A place where people have come to live and have built homes.
temple	A building devoted to the worship of god or gods.
Yucatan Peninsula	An area in south-eastern Mexico where some of the Maya civilization lived.

## Language

Hello: Ba'ax ka wa'alik

Goodbye: Taak ulak k'iin

Welcome: Kilmak 'oolal

Thank you: Dios bo'otik



Map

## Timeline

<b>2000 BC</b> Farming villages begin to form across the Maya region.	<b>1100 BC</b> Settlements begin to appear.	<b>700 BC</b> Maya writing is developed	<b>100 BC</b> The first Maya Pyramids are built.	<b>900 -1200 AD</b> El Castillo is built.	<b>250 AD</b> Beginning of the Classic Period.	<b>1000 AD</b> Chichen Itza is the most powerful city.	<b>1502 AD</b> First contact with European invaders/explorers
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