

History - Temples of Doom - Year 6 - Spring 2 - What impact did the Maya civilisation have on our world?



Vocabulary Top Ten:

ancient	Belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence.
cacao	Seeds that the 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 Maya 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.
Mesoamerica	The region in which the Maya lived, spanning over Mexico and parts of Southern America.
sacrifice	To give up something valued for the sake of something else.
temple	A building devoted to the worship of god or gods.

Location of the Maya civilisation

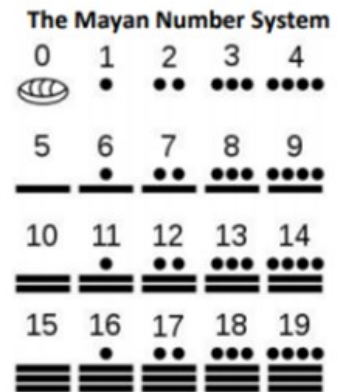


Strange but true ...

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

Key Facts:

- Centred around the countries now known as Guatemala and Mexico, the Maya Empire spanned 3,500 years! It 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 Maya were the first civilisation to create a way to record zero in their counting system.



2000 BC Farming villages begin to form across the Maya region.

1100 BC Settlements begin to appear.

700 BC Maya writing is developed

100 BC The first Maya Pyramids are built.

900 -1200 AD El Castillo is built.

250 AD Beginning of the Classic Period.

1000 AD Chichen Itza is the most powerful

1502 AD First contact with European invaders/explorers