

History

THE ANCIENT CIVILISATION OF MAYA

YEAR 6

How and why did the Maya Civilisation survive and thrive?



My Sticky

The Maya lived in Mexico and other areas of Central America over 3000 years ago. The Mayans were experts in farming, pottery, writing and maths.

The Maya Empire was organised into city states. Each city state was ruled by a noble family. City states would trade with each other.

The Maya observed the movement of the sun, moon and stars to create calendars.

The cacao beans were used to make chocolate. Hot chocolate was a sacred drink for the Maya.

Mayan temples were stepped to create a route to heaven. El Castillo (in Chichen Itza) is one of the most famous Mayan temples.

Their religion was polytheistic (they believed in more than one god).

Key Date

Key Event

2500 BC—910 AD	Start and end of the Ancient Maya Civilisation
1100BC	The hunter-gatherers begin to settle on the Pacific Coast.
800BC	Farming begins and a basic trade system develops.
700BC	Maya writing begins developing.
100BC	The first pyramids/temples are built and cities begin forming around them.
250 AD	The Classic Era begins. Astronomy, mathematics and architecture are all developing.
800-925 AD	Chichen Itza becomes the most powerful city.
1000 AD	The Maya civilisation begins to decline and leave the cities.
1500 AD	The Spanish begin to colonise.

Vocabulary

Definition

Picture

Agriculture Farming—growing crops or rearing animals

Astronomy The study of space, planets and stars

City State A city and its surrounding area, which has its own ruler.

Civilisation A well-organised and developed society



Heritage Traditions, language or buildings from the past that are important to a particular society

Indigenous People, plants or animals that originated in a place

Maize A crop, known as corn



Mesoamerica Central America