

# ¡Hola México! (The Maya)

3114 BC Mayan calendar begins.	1000 BC Mayan settlements begin to develop.	750 BC Large stone structures are built in Mayan cities.	600 BC Settlement created at Tikal that later becomes a major city.	300 BC Maya begin to use a monarchy government and develop a writing system known as glyphs.	100 BC Largest known ancient city in the Americas, Teotihuacan, founded.	250 AD Mayan civilisation now dominates Central America.	900 AD Mysteriously, the Mayan civilisation begins to decline. People live in smaller villages.	1400 AD Surviving Maya suffer a period of warfare, natural disasters and
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Vocabulary	Definition
civilisation	An organized society with its own culture and way of life existing in a particular area over a particular period of time.
ritual	A ceremony, often religious, with set actions performed in a set order.
culture	The lifestyle of a group of people or a society.
archaeology	The study of human history and prehistory through the analysis of artefacts and other physical remains.
hierarchy	A system in which members of a society are ranked according to status or authority.
glyphs	A picture or symbol that represents a word.
temple	A building devoted to the worship of a god or gods.
indigenous	People, plants or animals that originated in a particular place.
climate	The weather in a particular place over a period of time.
heritage	Traditions, languages or buildings from the past that are important to a particular society.
tradition	An activity, custom or belief that people have continued to follow for a long time.
monarchy	A system of government which a royal family is head of.

## What were their main achievements?

- Number system: using dots, bars and shells
- Writing system: using pictures called 'glyphs'
- Accurate calendars: using knowledge of astronomy and maths
- Successful trading links because they did not have all the resources they needed in one area.

## What food did the Maya eat?

- They kept bees for honey and sweet potato, squash, pineapple, tomato, avocado and chilli were all part of their diet
- Flat bread made from maize was an important part of their diet
- Cacao originated from the region and the Maya made it into chocolate

## Where did the Maya live?



The Maya were located in the area now called Mexico in Central America.

## What were Mayan religious beliefs?

It is believed that the Maya had over 600 gods but we only know the names for about 30 of them.

The Maya believed that a god existed for each of the most important aspects of human life and it was important to worship and praise all of them in order to live happily and peacefully. The main gods worshipped are:

Itzama—the creator god and lord of day and night

Ixchel—Itzama's wife and goddess of healing, childbirth, weaving, storms and the moon

Hun Hunahpu—maize god

Ah Puch—god of death

Chac—the rain god.

Kinich-Ahau—the sun god. At night, he became the god of darkness.

