

Hola México - Who were the Maya?

3114 BC Mayan calendar begins.	750 BC Large stone structures are built in Mayan cities.	300 BC Maya begin to use a monarchy government and develop a writing system known as glyphs.	1400 AD Surviving Maya suffer a period of warfare, natural disasters and disease.
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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.
monarchy	A system of government which a royal family is head of.
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.
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.

Where did the Maya live?



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



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.

What were their main achievements?

- Army-like hierarchies and different weapons for combat
- Number system: using dots, bars and shells
- Organising armies which used a range of weapons
- Writing system: using pictures called 'glyphs'
- Accurate calendars: using knowledge of astronomy and maths
- Successful trading links because they did not

What were Mayan religious beliefs?

The Maya had over 600 gods but we only know the names for about 30 of them.

They believe that a god existed for each of the most important aspects of human life and it is important to worship and praise all of them in order to live happily and peacefully.