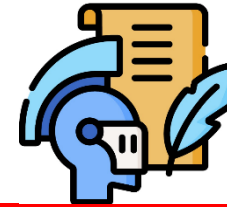


The Ancient Maya



KEY VOCABULARY

Cacao - Seeds that the Maya used to make chocolate.

Chichen Itza - The most powerful city-state during the start of the Post-classic period, Chichen Itza is a very popular tourist attraction today.

City-state - An independent government where a large city rules the surrounding area.

Classic Period - The golden age of the Maya civilization running from 250 AD to 900 AD.

Haab' - The Maya solar calendar that was used to measure time and had 365 days.

DIAGRAM



KEY KNOWLEDGE

- The Mayans were one of the great civilizations of the Americas.
- The Mayans settled in Mexico but were spread across a number of city states that were independent and ruled separately.
- The Maya civilization were highly developed with regards to Mathematics (using a base twenty number system), a writing system, astronomy and had an advanced architecture.
- Farming allowed larger settlements but deforestation and erosion of the land and a period of land drought started their decline.
- The civilization was organised into city states which had their own kings. The kings were in complete control and had nobles to help them - absolute monarchy.
- The Mayans lived in houses made of wood, thatch, vine, reed and 'wattle and daub'

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT AT HOME

- Who were the Maya?
- Where and when did they live?
- What were their cities like?
- What did they eat?
- What religious beliefs did they have?
- How did the Mayans count?
- How do we know about the Mayans today?

Timeline of events

