

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.

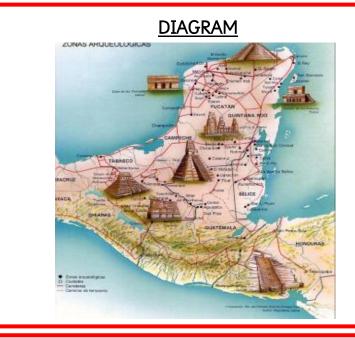
City-state - An independent government where a large city rules the surrounding area.

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.

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 **Ancient Maya Timeline** 300BC AD683 1100BC The social AD1502 Pakal the Great o structure in Mayo The first hunter gathers settle writing is adapts to include Nobles and Kings Planaue dies and along the Pacific Coast and then Europeans made Temple of 100BC AD450 800BC AD800 400BC The city-state of Tikal dominates the Village farming and trade The first puramids Sites in the rain Earliest solar tropical lowland of the central region. forests and tropical calendars lowlands are abandoned whilst

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 Mayan 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'