



Mayan Civilization



Timeline								
1100 B.C.	800 B.C.	400 B.C.	300 B.C.	100 B.C.	600 AD	800 AD	900 AD	1502 AD
The first hunter-gatherers settle on the pacific coast	Village farming and trade become established	First solar calendars invented	Cities become centres for trade and Kings begin to rule	First pyramids are built	Cities start expanding quickly	Building of stepped pyramid of Chichen-Itza	Decline of Mayan cities	First contact with Europeans is made

Key Vocabulary

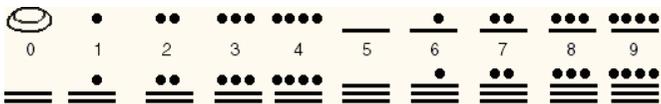
astronomy	The Mayans were able to predict solar eclipses and used observatories and shadow-casting devices.
calendar	These were circular and charted the movements of the sun, moon, stars and planets, with 365 days in a year.
civilisation	A people with an organised way of life and who have learned to write.
Headdress	A decoration placed on top of the head.
hieroglyphs	They used about 800 symbols to create writing, often on folded pages forming a book (codex).
irrigate	To water the ground during a dry spell.
maize	The staple food of the Mayans which was so important that they even had a maize god.
pok-a-tok	A game where large rubber balls were aimed at stone hoops. Losers were sometimes sacrificed to the gods!
pyramids	Built with a temple at the top to give sacrifices to the gods, others were built for the gods themselves.
sacrifice	Humans and animals were used as a blood offering to gods, mostly war prisoners by decapitation or heart removal.

The Hero Twins

Chichen Itza
A famous stepped pyramid in Mexico

Significant figures

Chac	The god of weather (rain god) and crops
Hero Twins	Main characters from the most famous Mayan myth about struggle and sacrifice.
Hun	The maize god
Itzamna	The creator god lord of day and night and ruler of the heavens. He also developed the first calendar.
Kinich-Ahau	The sun god
Pakal	Also known as Pakal the Great, who ruled from 615-683. He began his rule at the age of just 12 and constructed some of Palenque's finest buildings and founded a great dynasty. His funeral mask was carved from stunning Jade.



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What continent does Mexico belong?

Key Vocabulary

astronomy	
calendar	
civilisation	
Headdress	
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pyramids	
sacrifice	

Significant figures

Chac	
Hero Twins	
Hun	
Itzamna	
Kinich-Ahau	
Pakal	

Additional questions



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- What does BC and AD mean?
- What period of history do you think the Mayans were?
- Where were the Mayans from?
- What do you already know about the Mayans?

What is this landmark called?

Who are these people?