

Ancient Maya - Autumn 2019



Word	Definition
Archaeologist	Someone who studies history and pre-history by excavating sites and looking at artefacts and remains.
Artefact	An object made by a human with historical interest.
Cacao	Seeds that the Maya used to make chocolate.
Cenote	A natural underground reservoir.
City State	A city and its surrounding area that is an independent state with its own leaders and government.
Codex	An ancient text in a book.
Glyph	A symbol used in writing.
Pyramid	A large monument with four sides that narrows at the top.
Stela	A tall sculpture made from stone.

Pre-Classic Period 2000 BC - 250 AD	Classic Period 250 AD - 900 AD	Post-Classic Period 900 AD - 1500 AD
The Pre-Classic Period covers from the start of the Maya civilisation to 250 AD when the civilisation began its golden age. A lot of development took place during this period.	The Classic Period is considered the Golden Age. Most of the artistic and cultural achievements of the Maya took place during this time.	Although the southern city-states collapsed, the Mayan cities in the northern part of the Yucatan peninsula continued to thrive for the next 600 years during the Post-Classic period.

Mayan Commoner - Typically, commoners were farmers. The wife would light a fire early each morning for cooking and the husband would work all day in the fields. After work, the farmer would bathe - bathing was an important part of daily life. In the evenings they would do crafts or weave cloth for making clothes.

Mayan Clothes - This depended on where they lived and how rich they were. Wealthy Mayans wore bright colours with feathers and fancy jewellery. Poorer people wore simple clothes like loin cloths or long skirts. Everyone kept their hair long.

Mayan Food - The most common food was maize. They used it to make lots of different things like tortillas and porridge. They farmed crops like beans, squash and chilies. They also ate fish, deer and duck.

Mayan Homes - Nobles and kings lived in large palaces made from stone. Commoners lived in huts near their farms. The huts were usually made from mud or sometimes stone. They were one room with thatched roofs. Sometimes they were built on platforms to keep them dry.

Mayan Entertainment - A lot of their entertainment was around religious ceremonies. They played music, danced and played games such as the Mayan ball game. Sometimes the game was part of a religious ceremony with the losers being sacrificed to the gods.

Learning Objectives:

- ✓ I can identify the key points in the history of the Maya.
- ✓ I can identify the key locations in the Mayan empire.
- ✓ I can identify the main Mayan Gods.
- ✓ I understand aspects of the Mayan calendar.
- ✓ I can explain the basic systems of government, crime and punishment used by the Ancient Mayans.
- ✓ I understand and can use the Mayan number system.
- ✓ I can investigate an aspect of daily life for Ancient Mayans.
- ✓ I understand the purpose of cenotes.
- ✓ I have read and understood the significance of the story of the Hero Twins.

