

# Ancient Civilisations: The Maya

## Key Questions

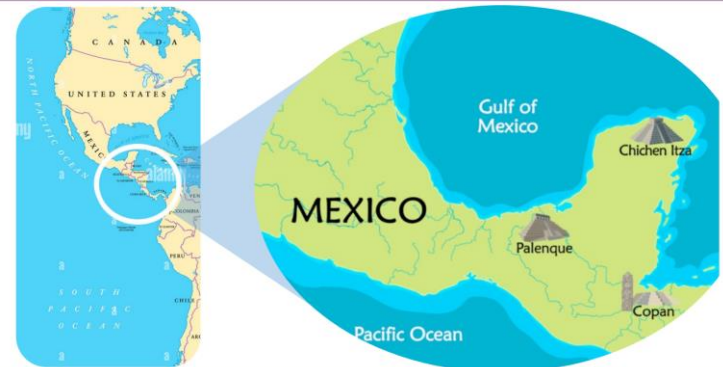
- Where were the Maya located?
- How were the Maya discovered?
- What key events happened in the history of the Maya?
- What was the Maya culture hierarchy like?
- How did art become a form of communication?
- What was the Maya religion like?  
How did they believe the Earth was created?
- What was Mayan everyday life like?

## Popul Vuh

Popul Vuh is an ancient piece of writing that rhymed. It was considered very important and influenced the Gods they worshipped and the ways in which they worshipped them.



## Map of Mayan Empire



## Key Vocabulary

- ❖ Central America
- ❖ Gods
- ❖ Ancient
- ❖ Settlement
- ❖ Lifestyle
- ❖ Stelae
- ❖ Number System
- ❖ Culture
- ❖ Hieroglyph
- ❖ Nobles
- ❖ Priests
- ❖ Farming
- ❖ Creator
- ❖ Myth

## Key Places

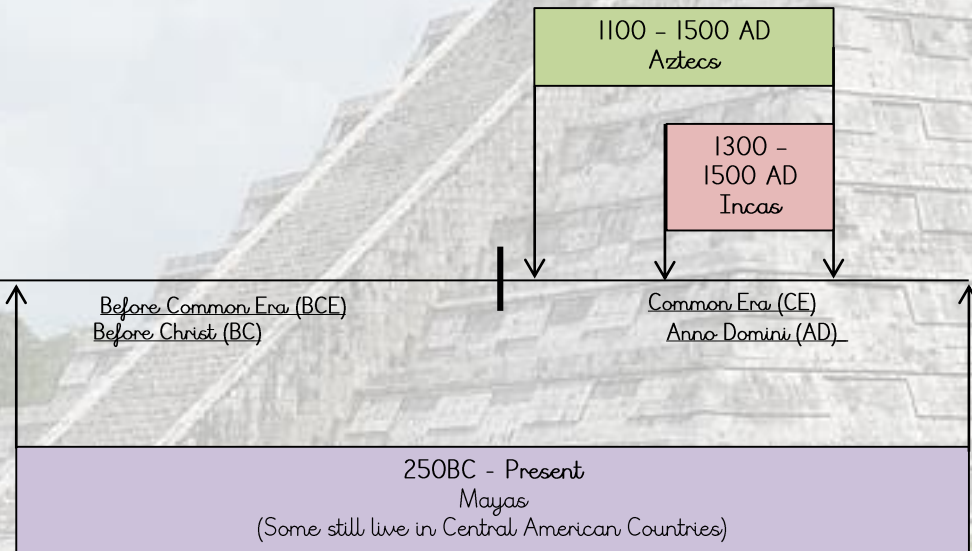
- ❖ The British Museum, London

## Useful Links

- ❖ <http://ancientmayantoolstransportation.weebly.com/>
- ❖ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svxcw>
- ❖ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/1Wd3F5DyRSgVJH2dNzqDqK3/history-of-early-civilisations-maya>
- ❖ <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/mayans/>
- ❖ <https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/the-maya>

## Culture and Society

The Mayans lived in Mexico and Central America from about 2000 BC to 1500 AD. They built stone temples and made one of the first calendars. They were great artists and used picture writing called hieroglyphs. Their society was full of stories and festivals that celebrated their gods and nature.



## Key Information

Mesoamerica	Mesoamerica is a <b>group of countries</b> that used to share a culture. It included: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica. The Aztecs, Incas and Mayas all followed this culture
Gucumatez and Tepeu	The two Gods who created the Earth according to the Maya religious beliefs
Conquistador	The Spanish explorers who travelled across the Atlantic ocean and discovered the lands of Mesoamerica.
Maya	<b>Developed around 250BC</b> , this group of people developed a culture. They developed their own number system and discovered the cocoa bean.
Ancient Civilisations	The <b>first settled and stable communities that worked together on a piece of land</b> . Today, we have used these ancient civilisations to inspire our own culture and we now live on their land in Modern Civilisations
Terrain	<b>Everything to do with land!</b> Is it flat or on does it have hills? Have we built on it? Is there a river on it?
Culture	<b>A set of beliefs, laws, or opinions that are shared by a group of people.</b> Often these people have shared interests too, like art, music, dance and what they think is right and wrong.