

Ancient Civilisations

Key Questions

- ❖ Which ancient civilisations existed in Central America?
- ❖ What countries are in Central America?
- ❖ How did religion influence the Maya society? How did they worship their gods?
- ❖ How did art become a form of communication?
- ❖ How did the geography of Central America influence how trade was used?

Key Places

- ❖ The British Museum, London

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.

Key Vocabulary

- ❖ Topography
 - ❖ Rivers
 - ❖ Boats
 - ❖ Maps
 - ❖ Atlas
- ❖ Central America
 - ❖ Trade
 - ❖ Weather
 - ❖ Gods
- ❖ Expression
 - ❖ Mosaic
 - ❖ Colour
 - ❖ Mood
- ❖ Movement
 - ❖ Ancient
 - ❖ Century
 - ❖ Civilisation
 - ❖ Settlement
 - ❖ Artefact
 - ❖ Lifestyle
- ❖ Mesoamerican Culture



Useful Links

- ❖ <http://ancientmayantoolstransportation.weebly.com/>
- ❖ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw>
- ❖ <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>

Transportation

The Mayas traded special rocks (such as obsidian and jadeite), cocoa beans, shells and feathers instead of money. In order to trade with nearby civilisations, they were forced to send slaves that walked to trade the items and return with the desired goods. Sometimes they used canoe boats if they had to travel over water.

1100 - 1500 AD
Aztecs

1300 - 1500 AD
Incas

Before Common Era (BCE)
Before Christ (BC)

Common Era
Anno Domini (AD)

250BC - Present
Mayas
(Some still live in Central American Countries)

Key Information

Mesoamerica	Mesoamerica is a group of countries 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
Incas	First appearing in around 1300AD , the Incas ruled over a number of countries in South America.
Aztecs	A group of people who lived between 1100 and 1500AD . They built a civilisation in the area we now call Mexico.
Mayas	Developed around 250BC , this group of people developed a culture. They developed their own number system and discovered the cocoa bean.
Ancient Civilisations	The first settled and stable communities that worked together on a piece of land . Today, we have used these ancient civilisations to inspire our own culture and we now live on their land in Modern Civilisations
Topography	Everything to do with land! Is it flat or on does it have hills? Have we built on it? Is there a river on it?
Culture	A set of beliefs, laws, or opinions that are shared by a group of people . Often these people have shared interests too, like art, music, dance and what they think is right and wrong.