

Mayans

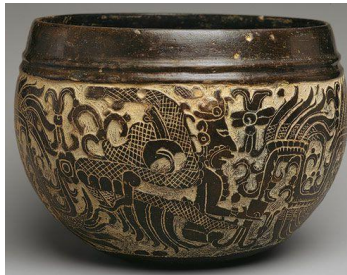
Maths & English

The Mayans had a complex writing system using hieroglyphs. They also excelled in mathematics and astronomy. They developed a sophisticated numeral system that included the concept of 0.



Who are the Mayans?

The Mayans were an ancient civilization in Mesoamerica (modern-day Central America) between 2000 BC and 1500 AD. They built impressive cities and made significant contributions in art, architecture, mathematics, agriculture and astronomy. The Mayans lived in city-states ruled by kings and priests. They were skilled farmers who cultivated maize, beans and squash. Mayan society was hierarchical, with the king at the top, followed by the nobles, priests, warriors and commoners.



By the 10th century AD, the great Mayan cities were mostly abandoned. Historians speculate about the causes behind the Mayan decline, such as warfare, disease, natural disasters, or social and political changes. However, Mayan culture and traditions continued to exist in smaller communities.

Key Vocabulary

Hieroglyph	Civilisation	Chichen Itza	Tikal	Southern America	Pakal (the Great)	Tulum (walled city)	
	Chocolate	Archaeologist	Artefacts	Belize	Mexico	Guatemala	Honduras

Key questions

History/Geography

Which region was the Mayan civilisation located in?

Describe how the Mayans letter and number system is different to ours.

When did the Mayan civilization begin/end?

Describe how the Mayan civilisation was different to an era in British history you have studied.

Science

Explain how fossils are formed.

What are the 3 different types of rock? Name an effective use for each one.

Music

Can you perform a short piece of music in time to a backing track?

Name at least 5 notes on a staff.

DT

Which materials would you choose to create food packaging from? Why? Which would you avoid?

Computing

How would you report concerns about online bullying (both in school and at home)?

Topic homework tasks

Create a poster or PowerPoint using research about the Mayans.

Design a leaflet for tourists visiting Chichen Itza.

Make a recipe of your choice which includes chocolate and send us a photo.

Write a diary entry called 'A day in the life of a Mayan'.

Research Mayan games and then create a game of your own; create a poster to explain the rules.

Choose your own task about the Mayans to complete and share with the class.

Maya region

