

History – Year 3

Mayan Society

Mayan cities had similar layouts to each other. They would have a palace for the ruler, a **plaza** for the marketplaces and temples, in the form of **pyramids**.

Mayan cities were often found near **trade** routes and farmland.

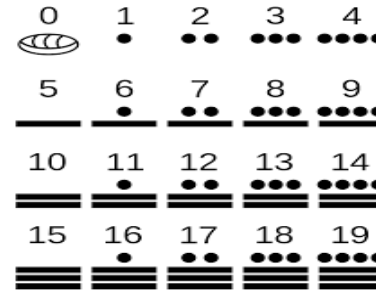
Mayans were **polytheists**, believing in many gods or deities.

Priests were considered the most important people in the Mayan **culture**. Warriors, craftsmen and **traders** were next in the **hierarchy**. Farmers, workers and slaves were at the bottom of the **hierarchy**.

The **Mayan** calendar (Tzolkin) consisted of 290 days and 13 months.

Mayan Facts

1. The Mayans predicted that the world would end in 2012.
2. Flat foreheads were fashionable so they would put baby's heads in a press to squash them.
3. It was considered beautiful to be cross-eyed so parents would hang balls in-between their children's eyes to make them look inwards.
4. Mayans sacrificed humans for religious and medical reasons. It was an honour to be sacrificed!
5. Noblewomen would file their teeth into sharp points.



Key Vocabulary

Artefact	An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.
Civilisation	Human society which is organised.
Dynasty	A series of rulers or leaders who are all from the same family, or a period when a country is ruled by them.
Empire	A group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country.
Hieroglyphics	A system of writing using pictures not words.
Kingdom	A place ruled by a king, queen or important person.
Maize	Also known as corn, is a cereal grain.
Temple	A building used for the worship of a god or gods in some religions.
Tomb	A large stone structure or underground room where someone, especially an important person, is buried.

1100 BC

Hunter gatherers settle along the Pacific coast.

1100 BC

Settlements begin to appear.

700 BC

Maya writing is Developed.

100 BC

The first Maya Pyramids are built.

900 -1200 AD

El Castillo is built.

250 AD

Beginning of the Classic Period.

1000 AD

Chichen Itza is the most powerful city.

1502 AD

First contact with Europe.