

What will I learn?

Who were the Mayans and where did they live?

The ancient Mayans lived in what is now known as southern Mexico and northern Central America including Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, Yucatán Peninsula and El Salvador. Their descendants still live there today, and many of them speak the Mayan languages.

What was life like for the Ancient Maya?

Mayan adults worked as farmers, warriors, hunters, builders, teachers, and many other things. Children from noble families could learn maths, science, writing and astronomy, but poorer children were only taught their parents' jobs.

What do we know of the rituals carried out by the Ancient Mayan civilisation?

Mayans engaged in many rituals, one being the game of Pok-a-tok (a ball game) but the main ritual being sacrificial, following their religion, worshipping many gods.

What caused the Mayan Civilisation to disappear?

Scholars have suggested several potential reasons for the downfall of Maya civilization in the southern lowlands, including overpopulation, environmental degradation, warfare, shifting trade routes and extended drought. ... What is certain is that the Mayans didn't disappear in the aftermath of the collapse.



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The Big Picture What I should know:

- Ancient Egyptian period was from 3100 BC to 332BC. Ancient Egyptians had a writing system using hieroglyphics and they built pyramids that were sacred tombs.
- Ancient Greek period was 800BC to 31 BC.
- Roman period was 800BC to 500 AD.

Links to future topics:

- KS3 – Settlements and non-European history.
- Contrasting between then and now

Glossary

Civilisation – human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.

Drought – A long period of time with little or no rain.

Scribes – People trained to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write.

Codices – Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.

Maize – Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas.

Chronological – following the order in which they occurred – 'in time order'.

Sacrifice – An act of slaughtering an animal or person or surrendering a possession as an offering to a deity (ruler or God).

Mesoamerica – A historical region and cultural area in North America. It extends from approximately central Mexico through Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica