

MAYAN CIVILISATION

Mayan Facts

1. The Mayans predicated 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.

Summary

The Maya were a civilisation who lived in Mesoamerica (now Central America) between approximately 2000 BCE and 900CE.

They are known for being the first Mesoamericans to develop writing. They also had a sophisticated culture in which they lived in city states.

They built spectacular monuments and stepped pyramids - some (e.g. Chichen Itza) have become world tourist destinations in the modern day.

They were also well-known for their advanced maths and calendars. Around 900CE, Maya cities became abandoned. No one knows for sure why this happened.

Vocabulary

Artefact	Dynasty	Mesoamerica
Calendar	Maize	Trade
Civilisation	Chichen Itza	Temple
Empire	Architecture	Chief
Hieroglyics	Hierarchy	Settlements



Timeline

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| 1100 BC Hunter gatherers settled along the Pacific coast | 1100 BC Settlements began to appear | 700 BC Maya writing developed | 100 BC The first Maya Pyramids were built | 900-1200 AD El Castillo was built | 250 AD Beginning of the Classic Period | 1000 AD Chichen Itza became the most powerful city | 1502 AD First contact with Europe |
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