

Year 5 Knowledge Organiser—Search for the Mayans!

Key vocabulary:

Mayan: The Maya (sometimes called the Mayans) were indigenous people who lived in Mexico and Central America.

Civilisation: A complex society with urban development, a government, social structures and systems of communication.

Empire: A group of territories ruled by a single ruler or people.

Physical geography: The branch of geography dealing with natural features of the environment.

Human geography: The branch of geography dealing with human impact on and relationship with the environment.

Sacrifice: The act of killing something as an offering to a God or other deity.

Printing: The process of reproducing images or text, typically with ink on paper.



The Maya (Mayans) lived in Mexico and Central America. The 'classic' Maya culture existed between from 250—1500 AD.



Step-pyramid temples are a well known piece of Mayan architecture.

Sacrifices were made here to the Gods!

Timeline of Maya culture!

Evolution of Maya culture	
Olmec	1200-1000 B.C.
Early Preclassic Maya	1800-900 B.C.
Middle Preclassic Maya	900-300 B.C.
Late Preclassic Maya	300 B.C. - A.D. 250
Early Classic Maya	A.D. 250-600
Late Classic Maya	A.D. 600-900
Post Classic Maya	A.D. 900-1500
Colonial period	A.D. 1500-1800
Independent Mexico	A.D. 1821 to the present

Chaac is the god of rain. Mayas believed that this god could strike the clouds with his lightning axe in order to produce thunder and rain.

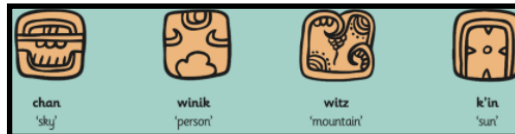
This represents the **Maize God**. Today, many Maya people believe that humans were made from corn. The Ancient Mayas believed this too.

Itzamná is one of the oldest gods and is believed to have created human beings. It's also believed that he created writing.

K'inich Ahau is the sun god. Some people believe that it's really Itzamná in disguise. K'inich Ahau was associated with the jaguar, rulership, fire and sacrifice.

Kukulcan: a huge serpent covered in feathers. In the dry season he's said to hibernate in lakes and during the wet season, he flies into the sky to release the water he has stored.

There were many Gods and Goddesses in Mayan culture. We will learn about some of these and Mayan religious practices.



The Mayans used many glyphs and symbols within their artwork. These sometimes represented sounds or, sometimes, specific things or people.

The Maya grew and ate a range of interesting and tasty food! Three key staple foods were:

- ◆ Maize
- ◆ Sweet Potatoes
- ◆ Chillis

The Mayans also ate avocados and used their maize to create soft breads like tortillas.

They even had chocolate!

