

Timeline

1100 B.C.	800 B.C.	400 B.C.	300 B.C.	100 B.C.	600	800	900	1502
The first hunter-gatherers settle on the pacific coast	Village farming and trade become established	First solar calendars invented	Cities become centres for trade and Kings begin to rule	First pyramids are built	Cities start expanding quickly	Building of stepped pyramid of Chichen-Itza	Decline of Mayan cities	First contact with Europeans is made

Key Vocabulary

Chronology	The arrangement of events or dates in history in the order they happened.
Ancient	Really old – a VERY long time ago.
BC/BCE	Before Christ/Before the Common Era (religious/non-religious).
AD/CE	Anno Domini/Common Era (Religious/non-religious)
Civilisation	An advanced, organised, structured society.
City-state	A city and the villages and land surrounding it, ruled by one leader.
Ahau/Ahaw	The King of a Maya city-state.
Priests	They were responsible for performing the religious rituals to the gods. Also known as 'craftsmen'.
Pyramids	Built with a temple at the top to give sacrifices to the gods, others were built for the gods themselves.
Sacrifice	Humans and animals were used as a blood offering to gods, mostly war prisoners by decapitation or heart removal.

Key Knowledge

Mayan Dress

Commoners and slaves wore plain loincloths, but the elite added feathers, animal skins or gems. Noblemen covered their lower half with a colourful garment and wore large, elaborate headdresses. Women wore skirts and tunics. Footwear was simple, usually being barefoot or sandals.

Trade

Merchants drove their human caravans along roads, down rivers and around coasts to trade with fellow Mayans and other Mesoamericans. The geography was so varied that they relied on trade to get the things they needed off each other, from maize, fish and salt to stingray spines (used for bloodletting) and valuable stones such as jade and obsidian.

What happened to the Mayans?

Around 900, many cities in the southern lowlands were abandoned but states in the uplands of the Yucatan peninsula continued to flourish until the arrival of the Spanish in 1502. One belief is that the Toltecs and the Aztecs took over with their own empires but later, when the Spanish arrived, they brought disease and forced them to give up their gods and become Christians.

Artefacts





Where in the world...

...where EXACTLY.



The Equator

(separating the Northern and Southern Hemispheres)

Chichin Itza (a pyramid)

Links to prior learning:

- The beginning of the Maya Civilisation commenced around the same time the Vikings were leaving Anglo-Saxon Britain (last year's unit on 'Anglo-Saxon Britain')
- The 'Middle Ages' in Britain were beginning (the start of the royal family – the Tudors and all that) as the Maya emerged 5,000 miles away.

Key Vocabulary

Continent	A large area of land usually made of of many countries.
Country	A nation that has people and a government (like the UK or France).
City	A large town like London or Birmingham.
Equator	An imaginary line that runs around the middle of the Earth.
Hemisphere	Northern part, Southern part, Eastern part and Western part of the planet.
Central America	A region where North America meets South America.
Palenque	A Maya city-state.
Chichin Itza	A pyramid built by the Maya.
Pyramids	An example of 'human geography'.
City-state	A city and the villages and land surrounding it.

Key Questions?

What did Pakal the Great achieve that made him so Great? Was he the only 'great' person in Mayan society?
How empowered were Mayan women?
What influence did Mayan priests have? How are they similar/different to (our) priests now?