





Prior Knowledge / Key Knowledge

The ancient Maya civilization was centred around the country now known as Guatemala. The Maya Empire was at its most powerful around 600 A.D. They are known for their skilled agriculture, pottery, hieroglyphic writing, calendar making and mathematics. They left behind an impressive amount of architecture and symbolic artwork. The Maya were deeply religious and worshiped various gods. They performed elaborate religious rituals and ceremonies in order to please them.

Unusual Maya Facts

- Flat foreheads were fashionable so they would put a baby's head in a press to squash it flat.
- It was considered beautiful to be cross-2. eyed so parents would hang balls inbetween their children's eyes to make them look inwards.
- Mayans sacrificed humans for religious and 3. medical reasons. It was an honour to be sacrificed!
- Noblewomen would file their teeth into sharp points.

Time Line		Vocabi
1100 BC	Hunter gatherers settle along the Pacific coast.	Ancien
1100 BC	Settlements begin to appear	Astron
700 BC	Maya writing is developed	Cacao
100 BC	The first Maya Pyramids are built.	Cenote
900 -	El Castillo is built.	Chiche
1200 AD	Er custillo is built.	Civilisa
250	Beginning of the Classic	Classic
AD	Period.	Code
1000 AD	Chichen Itza is the most powerful city.	
AD	powerful city.	Glyph
1502 AD	First contact with Europe.	Itzamm
		Popol \
Big Questi	ons / Challenging Perceptions	
The May	Pyrami	
think the	Sacrific	

and disappeared?

The Mayans were inventors. Which invention do you consider the best and why?



Vocabulary		
Ancient	Belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence.	
Astronomy	The branch of science which deals with space and the physical universe as a whole.	
Cacao	Seeds that they Maya used to make chocolate.	
Cenote	A sinkhole or pit filled with water, cenotes were sources of water for the Maya.	
Chichen itza	The most powerful city.	
Civilisation	The society, culture and way of life of a particular area.	
Classic Period	The golden age of the Maya civilization.	
Code	A book written by the Maya that was created by one long sheet of paper.	
Glyph	A symbol used in writing.	
Itzamma	The main god of the Maya who created the Earth.	
Popol Vuh	A book or codex that described Mayan religion and mythology.	
Pyramid	The Maya built step pyramids with flat tops. At the top, they built a temple to their gods.	
Sacrifice	To give up something valued for the sake of something else.	
Settlement	A place where people have come to live and have built homes.	
Temple	A building devoted to the worship of god or gods.	
Yutcan Peninsula	An area in south-eastern Mexico where some of the Maya civilization lived.	