

Key Learning

Shield Jaguar ruled over the city of Yaxchilan from 681 to 742. The king ruled with Lady Xoc and his other wives. Shield Jaguar's son was heir who would rule over Yaxchilan when Shield Jaguar died. Shield Jaguar called his son Bird Jaguar. On 28th October 709 Lady Xoc performed a bloodletting which was an ancient ritual whereby Lady Xoc was giving thanks to the gods for the birth of a son.

The Maya civilization lasted from 2000BC to the sixteenth century. It was in Mesoamerica, around the Yucatan peninsula, that the Maya lived. The Maya left behind a system of writing that historians have been able to decipher. They wrote in pictures and symbols called hieroglyphs.

In 615 Lord Pakal became the ruler of Palenque and he ruled for 68 years. When he was born Palenque was in turmoil and when he became the ruler the city needed to be reconstructed. Maya cities could be quite different in layout but many contained a centre with large stone temple-pyramids. The temples were scared.

The Maya roasted and boiled the cacao bean to make hot chocolate. Cacao was a delicacy that had been given to the humans by the gods. The Maya believed that the cacao was discovered by the gods on a holy mountain. It was given to them to bring them closer to the gods. Maize was also important to the Maya. It was easy to grow and versatile. Maize was also sacred.

The Maya used different calendars depending on what they wanted to measure and record. They had the 260-day calendar, the Long Count calendar and the solar calendar.

In 925 Chichén Itzá was the most powerful Maya city. During the ninth and tenth centuries, the Maya moved out of their cities. Historians have given different explanations for the decline of the Maya cities.

The Maya



Vocabulary

Accession	The act of coming into possession of an office, title, or the like.
Bloodletting	An ancient ritual giving an offering to the gods.
Delicacy	Fineness of texture or design. Something that is delightful or rare.
Dynasty	A line of hereditary rulers of a country.
Flagstone	A large heavy flat stone, usually cut into a rectangle or square shape.
Hallucination	A false or distorted but compelling sensory perception.
Jaguar	A large mammal with short yellow fur and black rings.
Mesoamerica	A historical region and cultural area that includes parts of North and Central America.
Obsidian	Black volcanic glass.
Plaza	A public square, marketplace, or similar open space in a built-up area.
Precise	Clearly said or communicated.
Primordial	Existing at or from the beginning of time.
Shaman	A Maya priest.
Turmoil	A state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty.

The Maya

681-742	709	615	800	808	900	925	1250
Shield Jaguar ruled over the city of Yaxchilan.	Lord Shield Jaguar and his queen, Lady Xoc, performed the bloodletting ritual	Lord Pakal became the ruler of the city of Palenque.	Palenque, was abandoned by the people who lived there.	Yaxchilan was conquered by another city.	The city of Tikal was abandoned.	Chichén Itzá in the north was the most powerful Maya city.	Chichén Itzá was abandoned



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Vocabulary



accession



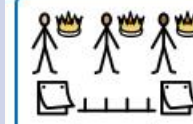
bloodletting



delicacy



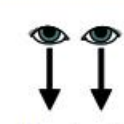
turmoil



dynasty



flagstone



hallucination



shaman



jaguar



Mesoamerica



obsidian



plaza



precise



primordial

The Maya

681-742

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615

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800

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808

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900

The city of Tikal was abandoned.

925

Chichén Itzá in the north was the most powerful Maya city.

1250

Chichén Itzá was abandoned



Rights and Global Goals

Rights

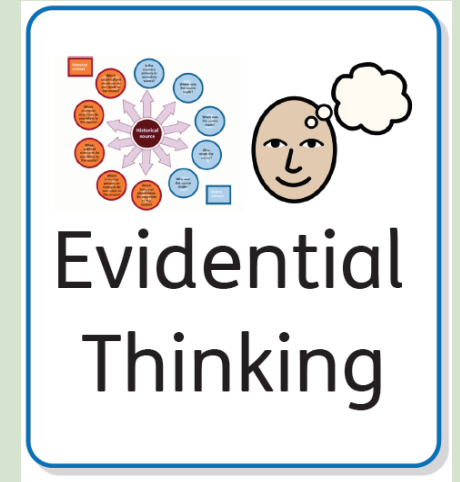


Global Goals

No. 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities



Big Ideas



Prior Learning

- Year 3 Cradles of Civilisations
- Year 3 Ancient Egypt



National Treasures

Alfred Percival Maudslay (British archaeologist and referred to as 'The father of Maya archaeology'.)

