

Key Vocabulary

City State	An independent government where a large city rules the surrounding area.
Classic Period	The golden age of the Maya civilization running from 250 AD to 900 AD.
Pre-classic period	The period of Maya history running from the start of the Maya civilization around 2000 BC to the start of the Classic Period in 250 AD.
Post-classic period	The period of Maya history running from the end of the Classic Period in 900 AD to the end of the Maya civilization in 1500 AD.
Glyph	A symbol used in writing.
Cacao	Seeds that the Maya used to make chocolate.
Monarchy	A form of Government whereby a single person (the monarch) is the leader.
Hierarchy	A system of ordering people into different ranks.

Key Questions

Who were the Maya?	How do we know about the Maya Today?
Where and when did they live?	How did the Mayans count?
Why did the Mayan Empire Decline?	What did they eat?
What religious beliefs do they have?	Why did the Mayans believe in human and animal sacrifice?

Where did the Mayan Civilization live?



Did you know?

The Mayan civilization were highly developed with regards to Mathematics (using a base twenty number system), a writing system, astronomy and had an advanced architecture.

Farming allowed larger settlements, but deforestation and erosion of the land and a period of land drought started their decline.

The civilization was organised into city states which had their own kings. The kings were in complete control and had nobles to help them - absolute monarchy.

The Mayans lived in houses made of wood, thatch, vine, reed and 'wattle and daub' which were usually composed of a single rectangular room.

The Mayan diet was based on corn and beans, but this was generally supplemented with vegetables, squash, chilli, avocado and other fruits, and, on special days, with meat from turkeys, dogs, armadillos, deer, iguanas, turtles, and fish.

The Mayan civilization declined due to famine, epidemics and droughts which caused issues with the farming land (no one knows fully what happened).

