

History - The Majestical Mayas

Key Vocabulary

Bloodletting	The surgical removal of some of a patient's blood for therapeutic purposes
Celestial body	An object in space that exists outside of the Earth's atmosphere
Calendar	A tool to organise days, weeks and months
Mesoamerica	One of the six areas in the world where ancient civilization arose independently



The Maya grew corn, beans, and squash, and they were among the first to make chocolate as a special drink. They also played a famous ball game called pok-a-tok. Many Maya people still live in the same areas today and keep their traditions alive.

The Maya were people who lived long ago in Mexico and Central America, and they built big stone cities with tall step pyramids. They were very smart and created their own calendar, studied the stars, and used a writing system made of picture symbols called hieroglyphs.

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Key Dates

MAYA TIMELINE

Olmec	1200-1000 BCE
Early Preclassic Maya	1800-900 BCE
Middle Preclassic Maya	900-300 BCE
Late Preclassic Maya	300 BCE - CE 250
Early Classic Maya	250-600 CE
Late Classic Maya	600-900 CE
Post Classic Maya	900-1500 CE
Colonial period	1500-1800 CE
Independent Mexico	1821 to the present

They created one of the first writing systems in the Americas called **hieroglyphics**.



The Maya were great at math and invented the concept of **zero** long before many other civilizations.

What were the main influences in the Maya community? How have the Mayas contributed to society today?

The **Maya** were an ancient group of people who lived long ago in what is now **Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador**.

Their civilisation began thousands of years ago and was strongest around **250-900 CE**, called the **Classic Period**.

Their cities had **pyramids, palaces, temples, and ball courts** for games.

They made very accurate **calendars** based on their observations of the sky.

