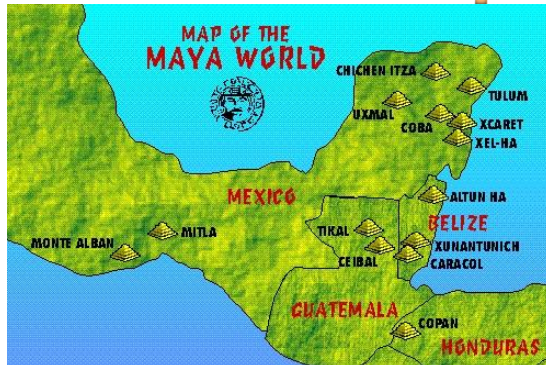




What impact has the Maya civilisation had on our lives? 1100BC - 1502AD



Where did the Maya live?

For thousands of years the Maya have lived in Mesoamerica, comprised of present-day southern Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and parts of Honduras and El Salvador. Today, the land of the Maya harbours thousands of archaeological sites, most of them are still unexplored.

The first Mesoamerican civilisation to develop writing, the Maya developed a sophisticated culture of city states with fine monumental buildings and characteristic stepped pyramids. The Maya were advanced in their use of mathematics and renowned for the accuracy of their calendar.

- ❖ The Maya did not use wheels or pulleys for their building projects. They did not have animals capable of heavy labour. Building materials were transported by human porters or canoes.
- ❖ Maya society was formed around a number of city states each with their own ruler. Each city was surrounded by rural settlements.
- ❖ At the top of the Maya society was the King and Royal family who were believed to be closely linked to the gods. An educated elite of scribes, priests and nobles formed the ruling class. They occupied the finest buildings in the city.

0	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19

Mayan number system

Key Vocabulary

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| monument | cacao |
| sacrifice | Itzamna |
| codex | cenote |
| priest | Chichen Itza |
| jaguar | obsidian |
| ocelot | hieroglyphs |
| stelae | maize |

