

The Magnificent Maya: Masters of the Rainforest

Step into the jungle and uncover the secrets of the ancient Maya!

- The Maya lived in independent city-states, each ruled by a powerful king, scattered across the dense rainforests of Central America.
- They built colossal stone pyramids that served as temples for their gods and as centres for important religious ceremonies.
- To grow enough food in the jungle, the Maya used clever farming techniques like terracing hillsides and creating raised fields.
- The Maya invented a sophisticated writing system made of hieroglyphics, which they carved into stone monuments and painted in bark-paper books.
- Maize, or corn, was the most important crop to the Maya; they believed it was so special that humans were actually created from it!

Did you know? Did you know? The Maya were brilliant mathematicians and astronomers! They developed a complex number system using only three symbols—a dot, a bar, and a shell—and could track the movements of planets with incredible precision long before modern telescopes were invented.

Key vocabulary: Civilisation · Hieroglyphics · Observatory · Maize · Terrace · Chichen Itza