

Ellie's Maya Civilisation Flashcards

Learning objective: To recall and understand key facts about the Maya Civilisation, including their location, achievements, and daily life.

Read the front of the card to test your memory. Flip the card (or look at the answer) to check if you are correct. Use these to revise for your upcoming history quiz!

Where in the world did the Maya Civilisation develop?

In Mesoamerica, which covers parts of modern-day Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador.

What is a 'city-state' in the context of the Maya?

An independent city that has its own government and rules, acting like its own small country.

What was the most important crop grown by the Maya people?

Maize (a type of corn), which was central to their diet and religious beliefs.

What was the name of the Maya writing system?

Hieroglyphics, which used pictures and symbols to represent sounds and words.

Why were Maya temples often built with steep stairs and high platforms?

To bring the people closer to the sky and the gods, and to show the power of their rulers.

What scientific subject were the Maya experts in, allowing them to create accurate calendars?

Astronomy (the study of stars and planets).

What was the purpose of a Maya observatory?

To track the movement of the sun, moon, and stars to help them decide when to plant crops and hold festivals.

What is Chichen Itza?

A famous ancient Maya city that contains a large, step-pyramid temple called El Castillo.

Did the Maya use metal tools for building their massive stone structures?

No, they primarily used stone tools made from flint or obsidian.

How did the Maya people transport goods without using wheeled carts?

They carried goods on their backs using tumplines (straps across their foreheads) or used canoes on rivers.

Which animal was considered sacred to the Maya and linked to the rainforest?

The jaguar, which was seen as a powerful spirit of the night.

What was one major achievement of the Maya in mathematics?

They were one of the first civilisations to use the concept of zero.