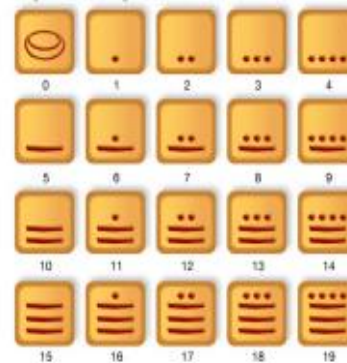


The Maya - History

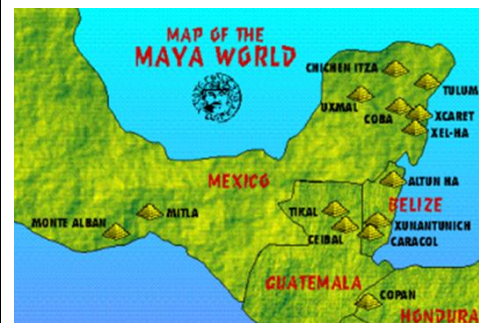
Key Vocabulary

Pok a tok	A game where large rubber balls were aimed at stone hoops. Losers were sometimes sacrificed to the gods!
Century	A period of one hundred years.
Decade	A period of ten years.
Era	A period of time in history. An era often begins or ends with an important event.
Sacrifice	The slaughtering of an animal or human as an offering to please a god or gods.
Chronology	The arrangement of events or dates in the order of their occurrence.
Maize	A cereal grain (corn) which was the staple food of the Mayans. It was so important that they even had a maize god.
Currency	A system of money used in a particular country or civilisation.
Vigesimal number system	The Mayan number system was based on the number 20.
Civilisation	Human society which is organised.
Artefact	An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.
The Maya	The American-Indian People of Central America.
Settlement	A place where people have come to live and have built homes.

Mayan numeral system



The Maya and numbers: the Maya had a good understanding of numbers and they developed a complex number and counting system which was advanced for their time. They were one of only two cultures in the world to develop the concept of zero and this allowed them to develop a place value system where a zero could act as a place holder in large numbers. This enabled the Maya people to distinguish between numbers like 23 and 203. This is a very important concept which many civilisations did not understand until much later than the Maya.



Timeline

The Preclassic Period (1800BC to 250 AD)	Great growth of the Maya. Small villages evolved into cities. Hierarchy began to emerge.
Classic Period (250- 1000 AD)	Maya culture flourished. City states began to take over smaller neighbouring cities.
Post Classic Maya (1000 AD onwards)	City of Chichen Itza became very powerful with strong economy and military powers.
Spanish Arrive (1500s)	Ships with Spanish explores arrive. Brought diseases with them which killed many Mayans/.
Heran Cortes (1519)	A Spanish explorer. Conquered the Mayans and began to remove Mayan Culture.

BC stands for Before Christ. AD stands for 'Anno Domini', which means 'the year of our Lord' in Latin. AD dates indicate the number of years or centuries that have passed since the year in which Jesus Christ is believed to have been born

