

Ancient Maya cities

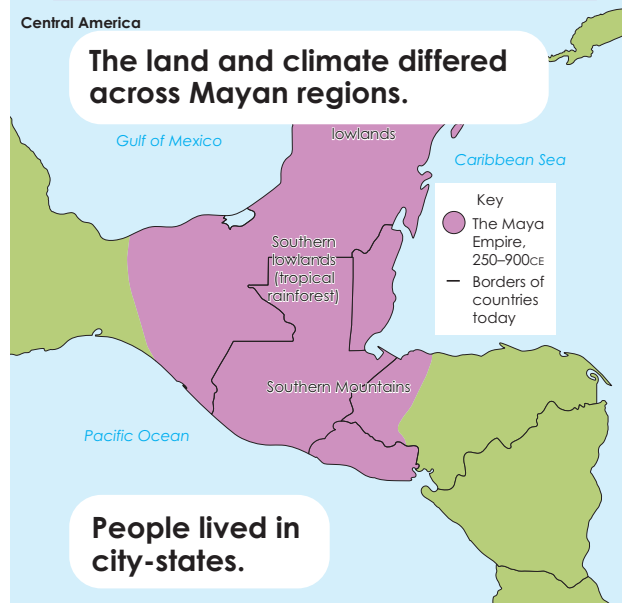
Remains of cities show us how the Ancient Maya lived.

Society had a ruler at the top and enslaved people at the bottom.



They had important buildings like this pyramid (Chichén Itzá).

Ancient Maya lands



Ancient Mayan beliefs

- Religion was an important part of daily life.
- People worshipped many gods.
- They worshipped the ruler and their ancestors too.
- Temples were built in honour of the gods.
- The Ancient Maya had their own creation story.



Learning

The Ancient Maya...

had three calendars.

had their own written language.



had their own number system.

wrote using pictures called glyphs.

Maya calendar

Ancient Mayans got food by ...

Hunting

Foraging

Farming



- City-states traded with each other and with other countries for food and goods.
- Cacao was significant to the Ancient Maya.

What happened to the Ancient Maya?

Historians once thought they suddenly disappeared...

The Ancient Maya declined over time.

In around 900CE, many cities were abandoned – there are different theories about why this happened.

European invaders arrived from around 1500.

These invaders colonised the Maya lands.

2000BCE-250CE
Pre-Classic Period

250CE-900CE
Classic Period

900CE-1500CE
Post-Classic Period

1500CE-1800CE
Colonial Period

Word	Definition
agriculture	Farming—growing crops and keeping animals for food.
ancestor	A person in your family that lived before you.
cenote	Natural pit filled with water formed when limestone collapses.
city-state	An independent city with supreme power over its land. The city is the centre and leader of political, economic, and cultural life.
civilisation	A society, culture and particular way of life in a certain area.
codices	Ancient Maya texts in the form of books (a codex).
crafts-people	Worker who makes objects using their hands.
colonisation	When a region takes over another region and settles there.
currency	Money that is in use in a place.
dam	A dam is a wall that is built across a river to hold water back.
decline	When something becomes less in amount, importance, quality, or strength.
drought	A long period of dry weather.
enslaved people	People who are owned by someone else and had to work for them without being paid.
farmer	A farmer is someone who has a farm.
forage	To search for food or supplies.
glyph	A picture of an object that represents a word or sound.

Word	Definition
greed	A great desire for excess money and objects.
hierarchy	A system in which people are organised into different levels of importance from highest to lowest.
hunter-gatherer	Someone who lives off food found or caught in the wild.
irrigation	Channels dug to let water flow to crops to help them grow.
merchant	Someone involved in trade.
myth	A myth is a very old story, often one about gods and goddesses.
noble	A noble person is brave and honest and cares for other people.
population	The population of a place is the number of people who live there.
priest	A member of the clergy someone who conducts religious ceremonies.
region	A region is one part of a country.
religion	A religion is a set of ideas that people have about God.
sacrifice	Killing an animal or a person as an act of worship.
settlement	A settlement is a group of people or houses in a new area.
slash-and-burn	Method of farming where plants are cut and burnt to leave fertile soil.
warfare	Warfare is fighting or waging war.
worship	To show devotion to a person or a god.