

Mayan civilization: KS2 Knowledge Mat

Subject Specific Vocabulary

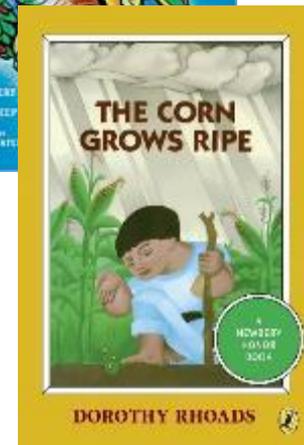
glyphs	Symbols used in the Mayan writing system. Each symbol represents a word or sound.
codices	Books created by the Mayans. They were made of soft bark and folded like a fan.
Chichen Itza	The Mayans most well-known pyramid.
Cocoa	Seeds that the Maya used to make chocolate.
Ahau or Ahaw	The main king or lord of a Maya city-state.
Batab	A lesser lord, usually ruling over a small town.
Itzamna	The main god of the Maya, Itzamna was the god of fire who created the Earth.
Pakal of Planque	Was the most famous ruler of the Maya city of Palenque from 615 A.D. to his death in 683.
Uinal	Word for a month in the Maya calendar. It was 20 days long.
Kin	Word representing a day in the Maya calendar.
Kukulcan	The serpent god of the Maya. One of the primary gods, especially to the Itza peoples of Chichen Itza.



Sticky Knowledge about the Mayan civilization

- The Mayans were expert mathematicians and astronomers. They used this expertise to make calendars.
- The Maya Empire, centered in the tropical lowlands of what is now Guatemala.. Most of the great stone cities of the Maya were abandoned by A.D. 900. Scholars have debated what might have caused this dramatic decline; deforestation and drought being the main causes.
- Mayan religion was extremely bloodthirsty, demanding human sacrifices and blood-letting rituals. The Mayans believed in an afterlife and that those who were sacrificed, as well as those killed in war and women who died in childbirth, went to 'the place of misty sky'.
- Pakal of Planque was one of the cities most famous leaders. When he died, he was buried in a glorious tomb in the Temple of the Inscriptions. When he came to the throne of Palenque, it was an embattled, destroyed city, but during his long and steady reign it became the most powerful city-state in the western Maya lands.

Exciting Books



Mayans. The **Mayan**, or **Maya**, peoples made their home in an area known as Mesoamerica (modern day Mexico and Central America). **Mayan** culture was well established by 1000 BCE, and it lasted until 1697