

Key Vocabulary:

- Archaeologist: someone who digs up remains of old societies
- Base 20: a maths system based on 20, not 10 like we use
- Codex: the Mayan book
- Creation myth: a story which explains the beginning of the world
- Hieroglyphs: writing that is made of pictures
- Interpretation: one person's point of view based on evidence
- Rain forest: an area of forest that contains many tall trees, has high temperatures and lots of rain
- Sacrifice: an offering to keep the gods happy
- Stelae: stones or wooden posts which have writing on.

Why should we remember The Maya?

Fun facts about the Maya

- The Ancient Mayans "enhanced" the beauty of their children by flattening their heads with wooden boards tied to their skull. Crossed eyes were also considered beautiful and many parents would dangle objects in front of their infants to permanently cross their eyes.
- Mayan physicians were excellent doctors. Shamans would go through extensive training and perform complicated surgeries, such as healing scars, and repairing tooth cavities with turquoise and pyrite fillings.
- Ancient Mayans used painkillers made from hallucinogens and alcohol.
- Mayas used sweat baths to purify themselves. Special buildings have been discovered that were used as sweat baths by kings and commoners alike.
- The last Mayan state existed until 1697, almost two hundred years after the first Conquistadors began invading the Yucatan Peninsula.
- The Mayan calendar does not end in 2012. Mayan calendars existed in cycles, with calendars extending to well beyond 2012. The end of a cycle was considered a cause for celebration among the Mayan people, and the idea of an apocalypse was first suggested by a new-age author

MAYA TIMELINE

First Evidence of Mayan	2600 BCE
Olmec	1200-1000 BCE
Early Preclassic Maya	1800-900 BCE
Middle Preclassic Maya	900-300 BCE
Late Preclassic Maya	300 BCE - CE 250
<u>Early Classic Maya</u>	<u>250-600 CE</u>
<u>Late Classic Maya</u>	<u>600-900 CE</u>
Post Classic Maya	900-1500 CE
Colonial period	1500-1800 CE
Independent Mexico	1821 to the present

