



## Wonders of the World

### Facts about The Mayas



1. The Mayas were the indigenous people of Mexico and Central America.
2. As early as 1500 BC, the Mayas had settled in villages. The Classic Period of Maya culture lasted from about 250 CE until about 900.
3. The Mayas settled in all of the Yucatan Peninsula and modern-day Guatemala, Belize, parts of the Mexican states of Tabasco, Chiapas, the western part of Honduras and El Salvador.
4. At its height, Maya civilization consisted of more than 40 cities, each with a population between 5,000 and 50,000.
5. The term Maya came from the ancient Yucatan city of Mayapan, the capital of the last Maya Kingdom.
6. The Ancient Mayas developed the science of astronomy, calendar systems, and hieroglyphic writing.
7. They were also known for creating elaborate ceremonial architecture, such as pyramids, temples, palaces, and observatories. These structures were all built without metal tools.
8. The cacao bean and beverage were used in a variety of religious rituals honouring the Maya gods.

#### key vocabulary and definitions

<i>indigenous</i>	<i>Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native people of a certain area.</i>	<i>Yucatan Peninsula</i>	<i>An area in South-eastern Mexico where some of the Maya civilization developed.</i>
<i>architecture</i>	<i>Architecture is the art and science of designing and engineering large structures and buildings.</i>	<i>Tikal</i>	<i>One of the most powerful city-states during the Classic Period.</i>
<i>observatories</i>	<i>A room or building housing for the study of natural phenomena.</i>	<i>Chichen Itza</i>	<i>The most powerful city-state during the start of the Post-classic period, Chichen Itza is a very popular tourist attraction today.</i>
<i>hieroglyphics</i>	<i>A character used in a system of pictorial writing</i>	<i>obsidian</i>	<i>A hard rock that was used to make sharp edges and tools.</i>

### Task 1

Research Maya Hieroglyphics. Create your own systems of symbols with different meanings and write a secret message to your teacher.

### Task 2

Create a fact file about the Mayas.

Remember to use sub-headings to organise your writing.

### Task 3

Create a map to signal where many of the Maya tribes lived.

### Task 4

Create a drawing of your own Maya pattern.

Have a look at others for inspiration.

### Task 5

Using the key facts, answer these questions:

1. Where did the Mayas settle?
2. List 4 things that the Mayas were known for.
3. Where did the term Maya come from?

### Task 6

Look into Mayan religion. Write a short paragraph to describe the main ideas and beliefs of the Mayan people.

### Task 7

Create a model (or draw) of Chichen Itza.

