

Key Vocabulary

city-state	an independent self-governing state formed of a city and its surrounding area
sacrifice	to make an offering to a god
technology	developing knowledge and tools to make people's lives easier
theory	an idea about why something happened
trade	the buying and selling of things like food



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civilization

a large group of people who share certain advanced ways of living and working

Why should we remember the Maya people?

Key Takeaways

- Maya people lived in Meso-America (Central America) in the area called Mexico and Guatemala.
- The Maya civilisation was a Stone Age culture as they didn't have metal.
- The Maya civilisation formed a society of city-states.
- Maya people made many technological advances and established a huge trading empire.
- The Maya people developed a writing system based on symbols called 'hieroglyphs'.
- The Maya people built pyramids to worship their gods and offer sacrifices.
- Maya people worshipped up to 300 gods, each one doing a different job.
- There are many theories why the population of Maya cities disappeared around 900AD.
- We know about the Maya civilisation from archaeological remains and the people living in the area today.
- We use the term 'Maya' not 'Mayan'. 'Mayan' is used only to describe the language.

Learning Questions

What can we learn about the Ancient Maya from the lives of the Maya today?

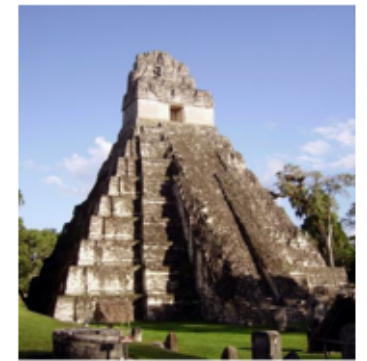
What can we learn about the Maya by investigating their ancient cities?

Why did the Maya have so many gods?

Were the Maya as clever as people in the 21st century?

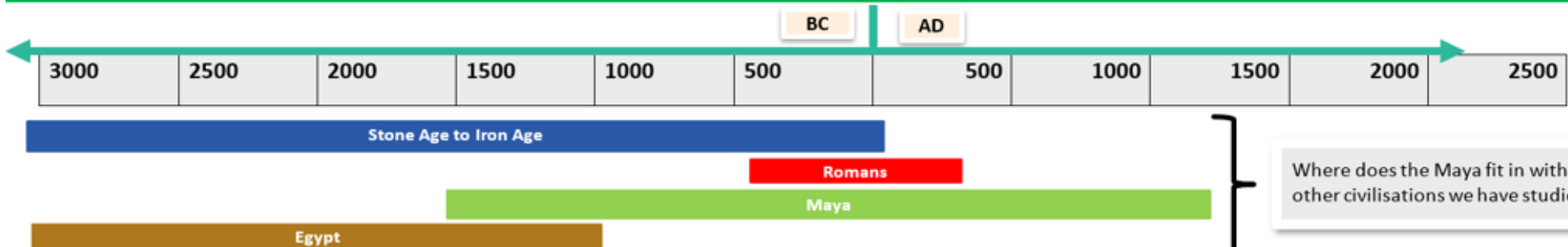
What happened to the Maya?

The Maya people built pyramids. Here is one at Tikal in Guatemala.



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Timeline



Where does the Maya fit in with other civilisations we have studied?