

Knowledge Organiser - The Mayan civilisation and religion

<u>Key Vocabulary</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Ahau or Ahau	The main ruler of a Maya city-state
Glyphs	The Mayan way of writing
Popol Vuh	A book or codex that described Maya religion or mythology
Tzolk'in	The Maya religious calendar used to track religious days and ceremonies. It had 260 days.
Bloodletting	The ritualized self-cutting or piercing of an individual's body in attempt to communicate with the gods.
Temple	The Mayan place of worship
Sarcophagus	A stone coffin Mayans were buried in
Mesoamerica	A region of Mexico and central America occupied by Mayans and Aztecs



Mayan gods and key places

Itzamna	The most important Maya god was Itzamna. Itzamna was the god of fire who created the Earth. He was ruler of heaven as well as day and night.
Kukulkan	Kukulkan was a powerful snake god whose name means "feathered serpent". He was the primary god of the Itza people in the latter part of the Maya civilization.
Bolon Tzacab	Also known by the name Huracan (similar to our word for hurricane), Bolon Tzacab was the god of storms, wind, and fire. Maya mythology said that he caused a great flood to come when the Maya angered the gods.
Chaac	Chaac was the god of rain and lightning. He had a lightning axe that he used to strike the clouds and produce rain and storms.
Chichen Itza	The most powerful city-state during the start of the Post-classic period, Chichen Itza is a very popular tourist attraction today.
Temple of the Inscriptions	Situated in the Mayan city of Palenque, in the midst of a tropical jungle. Hidden in the pyramid was the funeral chamber of King Pakal, who ruled for 68 years.

What you will learn:

- Who the Mayans were and where they were from
- The main gods worshiped in Mayan culture
- The different ways of practicing religion in the Mayan civilisation
- Some key religious places for Mayan religious worship
- Where the Mayans believed you went after death
- How the practices and beliefs of Mayan religion changed over time

Mayan civilisation and religion - 10 Things you must know

1. Who were the Mayans and where did they come from?
2. What was life like in a Mayan civilisation?
3. How many gods did the Mayans worship?
4. Who were some of the main gods in their religion?
5. How did the Mayans practice their religion?
6. What were some of the key places in the Mayan religion?
7. Where did the Mayans think you went after death?
8. How do we know about the Mayan civilisation?
9. How did the Mayan religion change over time?
10. How does the Mayan religion compare to modern Christianity?