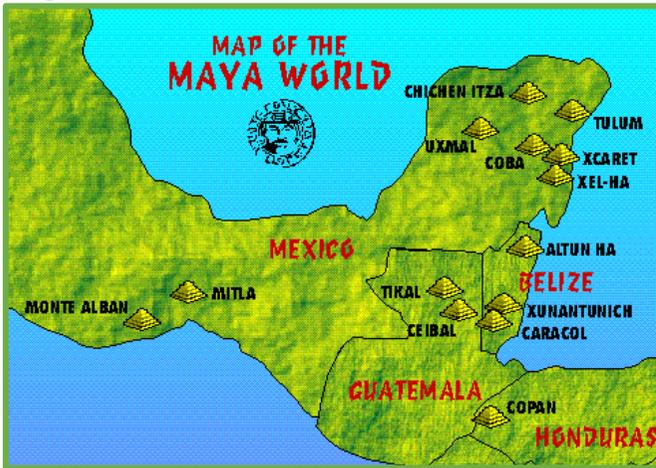


# Maya Civilization Knowledge Organiser



## Key vocabulary

- **artefact** - An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.
- **calendar** - A printed table showing all the days, weeks, and months of the year.
- **civilization** - Human society which is organised.
- **hieroglyphics** - A system of writing using pictures not words.
- **maize** - Maize, also known as corn, is a cereal grain.
- **temple** - A building used for the worship of a god or gods in some religions.
- **tomb** - A large stone structure or underground room where someone, especially an important person, is buried.
- **worship** - To have or show a strong feeling of respect and admiration for God or a god.



The temple at Chichen Itza

## Physical geography

- The Maya civilisation extended from what is now South East Mexico and through Central America.
- This area included highland and lowland settlements and a variety of climate zones, including rainforest.

## Human geography

- The most-visited Maya site in Mexico is Chichen Itza. It is over 1,500 years old.
- Other important sites include Uxmal, Palenque (in mountainous jungle), Bonampak (with murals depicting life in the Mayan royal court, including human sacrifices and war weapons) and Tulum, which is perched on sea cliffs.

## History Timeline

- 200 BC - Farming villages begin to form across the Maya region.
- 1500 BC - The Olmec civilization develops. The Mayan will take on much of their culture.
- 1000 BC - The Maya begin to form settlements.
- 700 BC - Mayan writing first starts to develop.
- 600 BC - Large buildings are built in the city of El Mirador.
- 600 BC - The Maya begin to farm. This enables their society to support larger populations and the cities begin to grow in size.
- 600 BC - The settlement at Tikal is formed. This will be one of the major cities in the Maya civilization.
- 400 BC - The first Mayan calendars are carved in stone.
- 300 BC - The Maya adopt the idea of a monarchy for their government. They are now ruled by kings.
- 100 BC - The city-state of Teotihuacan is established in the Valley of Mexico. It influences the Maya culture for many years.
- 100 BC - The first pyramids are built.
- 400 AD - The city-state of Teotihuacan becomes the dominant city and rules over the Maya highlands.
- 560 AD - The city-state of Tikal is defeated by an alliance of other city-states.
- 600 AD - The powerful city-state of Teotihuacan declines and is no longer a cultural centre.
- 600 AD - The city-state of Caracol becomes a major force in the land.
- 900 AD - The southern lowland cities collapse and Teotihuacan is abandoned.