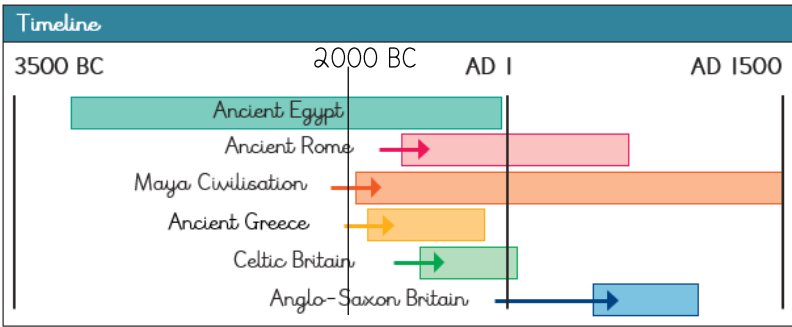


43-410	410-1066	1066-1075	1154-1485	1485-1603	1603-1714	1714-1837	1837-1914	1914-1945	1945 to present
The Romans	The Anglo-Saxons and Vikings	The Normans	The Middle Ages	The Tudors	The Stuarts	The Georgians	The Victorians and Edwardians	World Wars	Modern Britain



Maya Civilisations

Each of the ancient Maya cities was ruled by a different king or queen. The Maya believed these rulers had to keep the gods happy. To achieve this, the rulers offered sacrifices (sometimes human), conducted mass prayers and held parades through their cities.



Maya Vocabulary

glyphs	Writing that consists of signs and symbols.
sacrifices	Maya communities made regular offerings to the gods and goddesses to keep them happy, in the form of animal (and sometimes human) sacrifices
warriors	The warrior class, were responsible for capturing victims to be sacrificed high on pyramid-temples across the Maya lands. The Maya warriors were extremely effective in their tasks due to their religious beliefs, and were extremely fit from their training and diet.
step pyramids	They would often build important buildings, like pyramids, to face towards the sky and heaven.
sarcophagus	A stone coffin, often decorated, that was used in ancient times. On the lid, there were instructions on the Afterlife.
death mask	Maya death masks were made of the precious stone: jade, as it symbolised the soul and was intended to protect the wearer on the journey to the afterlife

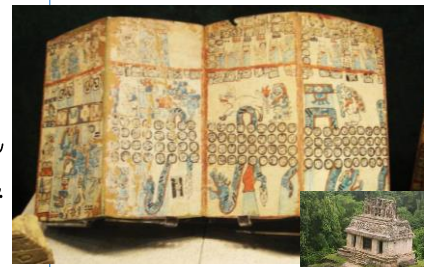
Pakal's Jade Death Mask

Pakal was buried in a large sarcophagus (stone coffin) in the largest of Palenque's pyramids, known as the Temple of the Inscriptions. The secret opening of the tomb was not discovered until 1948 by Mexican archaeologist Alberto Ruz Lhuillier. The skeletal remains inside the coffin still had the jade funerary mask and bead necklaces.



Maya Writing

The Maya people used a hieroglyphic writing system which consisted of signs or symbols (glyphs). Codices, which were ancient manuscripts in book form, written by Maya priests and scholars, contained information about astronomy, religion and gods. However, only four copies still survive today.



Maya Beliefs

The Maya believed in many gods, each representing a different part of life. These gods had to be pleased so Maya communities made regular offerings to them, in the form of sacrifices. Ancestor worship was important. Maya households buried their dead underneath the floors so they could protect the living.

