

Been and Gone / Mayans

Images



Important Facts

The Maya developed an advanced number system for their time. They were one of only two cultures in the world to develop the concept of zero as a placeholder. The number system used three symbols in different combinations.

The Maya people mainly ate maize (corn). Maize was very important to them as they believed that the first humans were made from maize dough by the gods.

The Maya made a bitter chocolatey drink from cacao beans that was enjoyed by the rich. It was used for medicines and in ceremonies. The cacao beans were highly valued and even used as a form of money.

The Maya writing system was used to write several different Maya languages. It was made up of many symbols called glyphs. Logograms are glyphs representing whole words. Syllabograms are glyphs representing units of sound (syllables). The glyphs were carved on stone buildings and monuments and painted on pottery.

Maya scribes also wrote books called codices.

Useful Websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw>

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/mayans/>

Vocabulary / Key Terms

Civilisation	A human society with well developed rules and government, often
Drought	A long period of time with little or no rain.
Scribes	People trained to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write.
Maize	Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas.
Cacao beans	Cacao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When they are ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans, which can then be dried, roasted and ground.