

History – The Mayas – Y5/6 - Spring 2

The Maya Civilisation

The Maya civilisation came into being around **2000 BC** and cities such as El Mirador became large and powerful from **300 BC** onwards.

By around **AD 900**, cities in the rainforest were abandoned and people moved up north to the highlands of Guatemala and the Yucatan. This was because there was an extensive drought in the area that lasted a long time and people needed to move out of the rainforest.

Cities like Chichen Itza were still thriving in **AD 1000** and the Maya civilisation was still in existence in **AD 1500**.

It was due to the arrival of the Spanish in the **16th century** that their ancient cities fell to ruin.

Knowledge Organiser

The Maya had a good understanding of numbers and they developed a complex number and counting system which was advanced for their time.

Maya Numbers			
1	•	11	• —
2	••	12	•• —
3	•••	13	••• —
4	••••	14	•••• —
5	—	15	— —
6	• —	16	• — —
7	•• —	17	•• — —
8	••• —	18	••• — —
9	•••• —	19	•••• — —
10	— —		

MAYAN CULTURE



The Location of the Maya

Today, the area the Maya used to live in spreads over 5 countries: Mexico (southern Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula), Belize, Guatemala, a small area of west Honduras and the very north of El Salvador.

