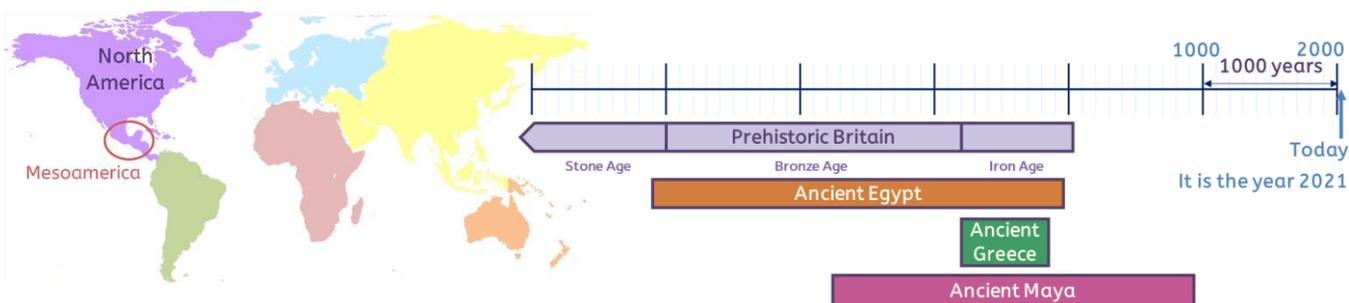


Ancient Maya

The big picture



The Ancient Maya...



...lived in city-states that were ruled by kings.
The king was seen as half-man, half-god.

Their cities had step-pyramids, plazas, ball courts and some even had an observatory.



...believed in multiple gods and worshipped them with blood, animal and human sacrifices!



...developed hieroglyphics, a number system and the concept of 0.

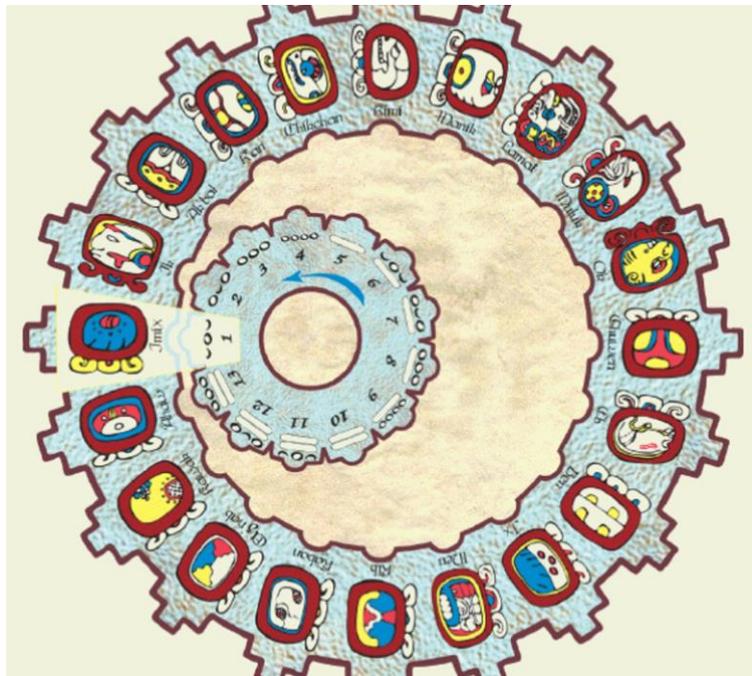
Vocabulary

- autocracy (noun): a system of government where one person has all the power
- bloodletting (verb): spilling of blood in sacrifice (usually self-inflicted)
- city-state (noun): a city (with the farmland around it) that that its own system of government and its own identity
- democracy (noun): a system of government where all people have a say in how the place is run
- hieroglyph (noun): a picture or symbol that represents a sound, syllable or word (hieroglyphics is the writing made up of individual hieroglyphs)
- king (noun): the (male) ruler of a place
- Mesoamerica (Noun): an area of Mexico and Central America where the Maya and other peoples lived
- plaza (noun): a public open space usually found in cities
- pyramid (noun): a 3D shape that has a square or triangular base and a point at the top
- observatory (noun): a building where people can study the night sky
- sacrifice (noun/verb): an act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else considered to be more important/to give something up
- step-pyramid (noun): a pyramid that has been built using steps rather than smooth diagonal lines



Ancient Maya

The calendars were created by mapping astrological patterns and the movements of the earth around the sun to create seasons. These calendars impacted on the everyday life of the Mayans. They gave times for the rainy season, the best days to hunt or perform cures and religious ceremonies. The calendars work like wheels with cogs.



These are the current countries that span Mesoamerica



The Maya lived in, inhospitable areas – mountainous, rainforests and suffered periods of drought. They developed new farming techniques to be able to control the land.

