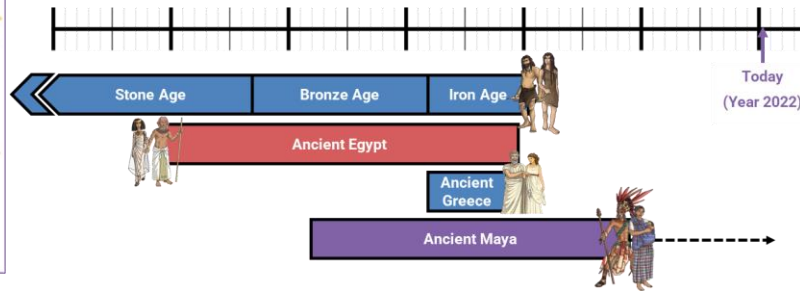
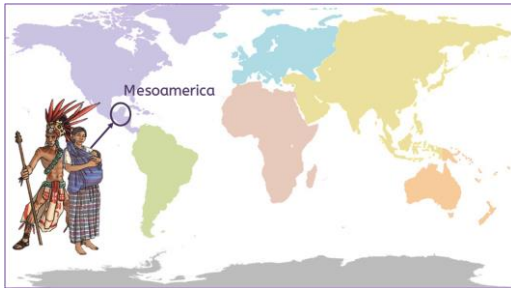


# Ancient Maya Civilisation

## 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 a symbol like our 0.

## Key Vocabulary

- **autocracy** (noun): a system of government where one person has all the power
- **bloodletting** (verb): spilling of human's own blood
- **city-state** (noun): a city (with the farmland around it) that has its own system of government and its own identity
- **hieroglyph** (noun): a picture or symbol that represents a sound, syllable or word (**hieroglyphics** is the writing made up of individual hieroglyphs)
- **Mesoamerica** (noun): an area of North America where the Maya (and others) lived
- **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
- **temple** (noun): a building for worshipping gods in

