

LC: What do we know about the rituals carried out by the Mayan civilization?

HS: Construct knowledge from the past.

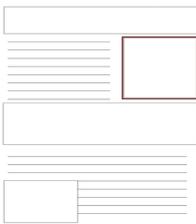
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Using the link provided, you will research the rituals of Mayan civilization and create a fact file on all relevant information. Let's look at the link below to begin our research...

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

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What should a fact file include?



In order to ensure we include all relevant information about The Mayans and the Mayan civilization, we will record information one section at a time.

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The Mayan Civilization → Title

Mayans

The Mayan, or Maya, peoples made their home in an area known as Mesoamerica (modern day Mexico and Central America). Mayan culture was well established by 1000 BCE, and it lasted until 1697 CE. All Maya shared a common culture and religion, but each city governed itself and had its own noble ruler. These cities never came together to form a single empire. Mayan kings were constantly at war with each other, fighting for tribute (gifts) and prisoners to sacrifice to the gods.

→ Let's condense this information.

The Maya were excellent beekeepers, and raised stingless bees for honey.

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Mayan beliefs

The Maya believed that their rulers could communicate with the gods and their dead ancestors through the ritual of bloodletting. It was a common practice for the Maya to pierce their tongue, lips, or ears with stingray spines and pull a thorny rope through their tongue, or cut themselves with an obsidian (stone) knife. The Maya also offered the blood of prisoners captured in warfare. They fought wars in order to capture high-ranking prisoners who could be sacrificed to satisfy the gods. Mayan kings were the most important priests. They were seen as the link between humans and gods, and when the kings died they themselves became gods.

→ Let's condense this information together. Then, draw an image alongside it.



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Mayan calendar

The Maya were expert mathematicians and astronomers. They used their studies to devise calendars. The Mayan calendar was highly complex and it was also used by other Mesoamerican people. The Maya followed a 52-year Calendar Round. This resulted from two calendar cycles, the Haab and the Tzolkin, which acted at the same time but were independent of each other. The two cycles reached the same point after a period of 52 years. For periods longer than 52 years, the Maya used a separate system called the Long Count. The planet of Venus was important to the Maya. They accurately tracked its movements and timed their wars to happen alongside its first appearance in the morning sky.

→ Let's condense this information together. Then, draw an image alongside it.



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Mayan art and craft

The Maya produced some of the finest art from Mesoamerica (the region of Mexico and Central America once occupied by the Maya, Aztecs, and related cultures). They used a variety of materials, such as stone, wood, ceramics, jade, and bone to decorate their buildings and to make objects that were either sacred or served a specific function (such as storing water). Particularly striking works of art are the Maya's portraits of themselves. These portraits help us to understand their way of life, methods of warfare, costumes, and beliefs.

→ *Let's condense this information together. Then, draw an image alongside it.*



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Mayan writing

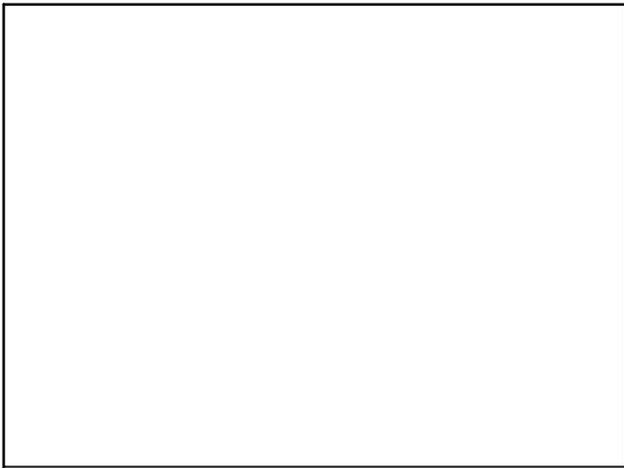
The Maya created a writing system using symbols called glyphs. Each symbol represented a word or a sound. Glyphs were used to record events on stone slabs called stelae. The Maya also created books, known as codices. These were made from soft inner bark and folded like a fan. The four Mayan codices that still exist today tell us little of their history, but deal mainly with subjects such as rituals, astronomy, and calendars.

→ *Let's condense this information together. Then, draw an image alongside it.*

The Mayan writing system had approximately 700 glyphs.



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