

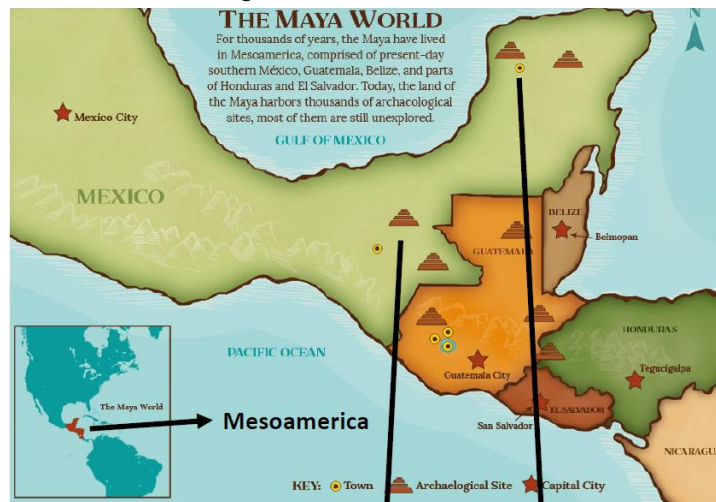
Important facts

- Mayan cities had similar layouts to each other. They would have a palace for the ruler, a plaza for the market places and temples, in the form of pyramids.
- Mayan cities were often found near trade routes and good farmland.
- Mayans were polytheists, believing in many nature gods or deities.
- Priests were considered the most importance people in Mayan culture. Warriors, craftsmen and traders were next in the hierarchy. Farmers, workers and slaves were at the bottom of the hierarchy.
- The Mayan calendar (Tzolkin) consisted of 260 days and 13 months.
- The demise of the Mayan civilisation came about because of the mixture of deforestation, land erosion and drought.

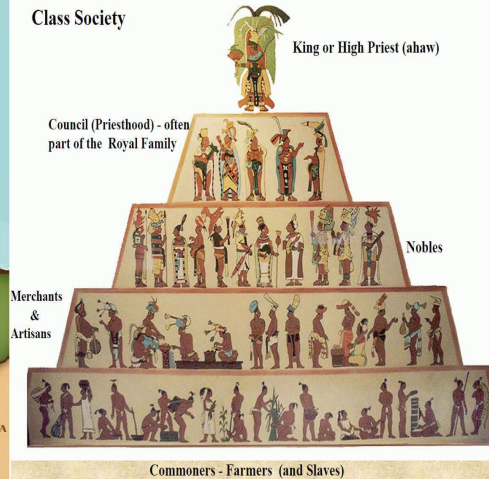
Key Vocabulary

architecture	The art of designing and constructing building
Chichen Itza	a village of important Mayan ruins in Yucaten state in Mexico.
chronology	The order of events in time
deforestation	When all the trees are cut down.
deities	A god or goddess
demise	Something or someone is near their end of death
drought	A long period of time without rain
erosion	Gradual destruction of rock or soil
hierarchy	A system organising people into different ranks or level
indigenous	People or things which belong to the country where they are found
Mayan	Of or relating to the Maya
Mesoamerica	Central America
plaza	An open square in a city
polytheists	The worship of more than one god
trade	Buying, selling or exchanging goods

Where did the **Mayans** live ?



Class Society



Famous Mayan cities include Palenquenque and Chichen Itza in Mexico.



Timeline

c. AD 250: By this stage, the **Maya** had many established cities. They had many monuments, pyramids and devised a writing and maths

c. AD 840: The quality of the fields is poor, and this combined with land **erosion**, leads to a **drought**.

Today...there are still 7 million **indigenous Mayan** people living in Central America.

c. AD 600: The **Mayan** population exceeded 5,000,000 people. Excessive farming and **deforestation** due to overflow from the cities were commonplace and this led to land becoming less fertile.

c. AD 900: Many **Mayan** cities are deserted due to **deforestation**, **drought** and war.