

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER - The Maya

Substantive Concepts:

- When and where the Maya lived and the type of environment they lived in
- Understand the difficulties of sustaining a civilization in a rainforest environment
- There was abandonment of sites in the Peten area, but the Maya did not disappear.
- How the Maya fitted in to a wider chronological pattern of other civilisations and periods
- Know about the Maya writing system and its uses
- Know what the hieroglyphs tell us of Maya culture and society

How did the Maya count?



How is this similar / different to how we tell the time now?

The Five Position of the Long Count Calendar			
Symbolic Unit	Visual Unit	Head Unit	Head Weight
144,000 days (20 K'atuns)			
7200 days (20 Tuns)			
360 days (18 Winals)			
20 days (20 Kins)			
1 Day			



How did the Mayan tell the time?
The Maya calendar round.
The long count calendar system.

Where did salt, obsidian, jade and limestone come from?

How did they manage to get enough food for sometimes up to 50000 people?



How did we know about the Maya?

Why did it take so long to discover many of the Maya cities?

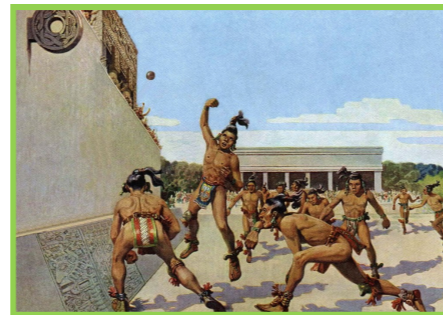


The Maya lived in rainforests. What was a rainforest environment like?

Why were 'bajos',



A rubber ball was bounced off the hips or knees without touching hands. . The team scores points every time a player throws the ball in a specific location of the field or through a ring of stone set on top of a wall.



Did the Maya play ball games like we do?

Ball Game: How did you play it?

What were the rules?

What happened to the winners?

What about the losers?

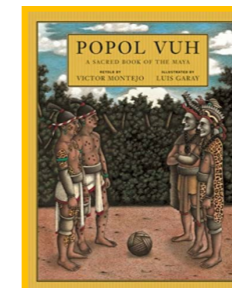


BALL GAME RULES

1. There are always two teams.
2. Each team has 2 - 6 players.
3. The ball is hit using the hip, knee or right elbow.
4. The ball must not touch the ground.
5. The aim is to make the other team drop the ball.



The loser of the game was sacrificed



Stelae were carved standing stones that represented the major events in a ruler's life such as accession to the

What was Maya writing like? How does it compare to our writing system now?

What can the writing tell us of Mayna culture and society?

Popol Vuh: The Creation Myth of the Maya.

