

HOLA! MEXICO

FUN FACTS

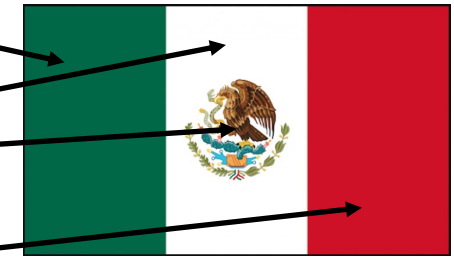


The picture of an eagle eating a snake is based on an Aztec legend.

HOPE AND VICTORY

PURITY

BLOOD OF MEXICAN PEOPLE



Here are some interesting Mexico Facts which were chosen and researched by kids especially for kids.

- Population: 123 million people live in Mexico (2016)
- Capital: Mexico City with 19.3 million inhabitants is the country's biggest city
- Name: United Mexican States (in Spanish: Estados Unidos Mexicanos)
- Government: Democracy, Republic
- Language: Spanish
- Literacy: More than 93.5% over the age of 15 years can read and write
- Religion: Christians (Roman Catholics 89%)
- History: Mexico was conquered and colonised by the Spanish from the 16th century
- Currency: 1 Peso = 100 centavos
- Flag colors: green, white and red



Mexico is located on the North American continent and shares borders with the USA in the north and Belize and Guatemala in the south. The border between Mexico and the USA is the second longest border in the world and is about 3,155km/2,000 miles long.

Below you can see a map of Mexico, click on the map to zoom in to see more cities and detailed information.



Who Were the Ancient Maya?

Scholars still have much to learn from the Mayan glyphs and ruins. But they have uncovered enough information for us to answer the question, "Who were the ancient Maya?"

The Maya were one of the great civilizations of the Americas. But there was not one single Maya empire. The Maya were spread among a group of **city-states** that were independent and ruled separately, but shared a common culture. Maya city-states shared similar religious beliefs, social structures, and building styles to other Mesoamerican cultures like the Olmec and Aztec, but each civilization was unique.

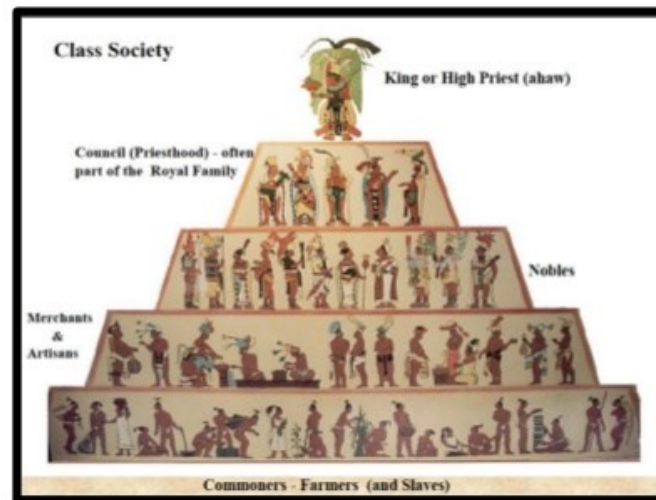
The Mayans Significant Dates



Beginnings	Start of Classical Period (CP)	Growth	Drought Period	End of CP	Repercussions of Drought
2000 BCE	250 CE	600 CE	840 CE	900 CE	909 CE
Ceremonial centers were built in modern-day Guatemala and the Yucatan. This marks the very beginnings of the Maya civilization.	Time period of the Mayans largest achievements in culture. Mathematics as well as astronomy were adopted and refined by intellectuals, a writing system was created, architecture was at its most advanced and technology supported complex cities and fertile crops.	Mayan population reached five million or more. This caused resources to be outstripped. Deforestation and erosion of the land ensued, and made the land less fertile.	The area experienced a long term drought, which jump started the downfall of the Maya Civilization. The drought accompanying the erosion of the soil caused crop failure.	End of the classical phase of the Maya Civilization. From this point on, the society never returned to its full glory.	The last date inscribed by Mayans. This year marks the end of the Maya. Due to extended drought periods over the past century as well as famine, epidemics and internal warfare, population steeply declined until the end of the civilization.

The Ancient Maya had a class society. At the top were the nobles and priests. Their middle class was made up of warriors, craftsmen and traders. The farmers, workers and slaves were at the bottom.

MAYAN PEOPLE



- The time keeping system of the Mayans was a combination of cycles, mixing the movements of the Sun, Moon, and Venus.
- Their sacred calendar called the Tzolkin was composed of 260 days: It contained 13 months.
- The second calendar was the civil calendar and consisted of 365 days. It was called the Haab. This calendar consisted of 18 months.

MAYAN CALENDARS



MAYAN RELIGION

- The Maya believed in a large number of nature gods. Some gods were considered more important and powerful than others.
- Itzamna - The most important Maya god was Itzamna. He was the god of fire who created the Earth. The Mayan believed that Itzamna gave them the calendar and writing.
- Kukulcan - Kukulcan was a powerful snake god whose name means "feathered serpent". He is often drawn to look like a dragon.
- Bolon Tzacab - Also known by the name Huracan. Bolon Tzacab was the god of storms, wind, and fire.
- Chaac - Chaac was the god of rain and lightning. He had a lightning axe that he used to strike the clouds and produce rain and storms.
- The kings of the Maya served as intermediaries between the people and the god. The priests were responsible for performing rituals to keep the people in the favor of the gods. They were very powerful. One of the rituals was animal and human sacrifices.

MAYAN ARCHITECTURE

- The Maya civilization is famous for its architecture. Many cities built large palaces, pyramids, and other public buildings that are still standing today. The buildings were covered with statues to honor their gods and their kings.

