



What has changed and stayed the same for Maya civilisation over time?

1. Who are the Maya and why are they significant?

- The ancient Maya lived in a region that today includes Guatemala, Belize, the Yucatán peninsula (Mexico) and the western portions of Honduras and El Salvador.
- The Mayan people lived in an area known as **Mesoamerica** around **2000 BC**.
- They are remembered for their amazing buildings and beautiful objects.

How do we know about the Maya?

From the remains of architecture and art, including stone carvings, inscriptions on buildings, and the books they wrote.

2. What did the Maya believe in?

- Many Gods, each representing a different part of life.
- Gods were closely tied to the calendar and astronomy. Their importance changed according to the **movement of the stars, moon and sun**.
- Maya communities made regular **offerings** to the Gods.

Key Vocabulary

Archaeologists: a person who learns and discovers history by excavating sites and examining artefacts.

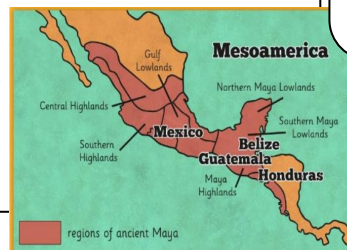
Excavate: the method of digging something up carefully

Jade: a precious green metal.

Chichen Itza: a city built by the Maya people.

Sacrifice: killing in the name of a god

Reincarnation: to be born again



3. What was life like at the height of the Maya civilisation?

- The Maya lived in great cities or farmland.
- Adults worked as **farmers, warriors, hunters, builders and teachers**.
- They created their own **number system** using a few **symbols** to represent numbers.
- They used a form of writing called **hieroglyphics**.
- They devised **calendars** using the sun, moon and stars.
- They played music, danced and played games such as Pok-A-Tok.
- Religious ceremonies formed a lot of their entertainment.

4. How has the Maya civilisation changed over time?

- From around 1517-1697 Spanish invaders started to destroy Maya cities.
- The Maya population decreased but there are still over 7 million Maya people living in Central America and southern Mexico today.
- Maya people in remote villages continue with traditional beliefs and their language today.
- Many Gods, Goddesses and religious beliefs changed over the course of the Maya civilisation.

