History – Mayan Civilization – Year 4

Vocabulary Top Ten:	
ahaw	The name of Maya leaders meaning 'lord' or 'ruler'.
codex	A Maya book made of bark or leather.
maize	A vegetable similar to corn.
manta	A blanket men and women used when it was cold.
Maya	Used when referring to people, places and culture.
Mayan	Used to describe the language spoken by the Maya.
monument	A structure to remember something special.
ritual	A ceremony that is always performed the same way.
sacrifice	To loss something for a better cause.
torment	To cause distress and suffering to someone's mind or body.

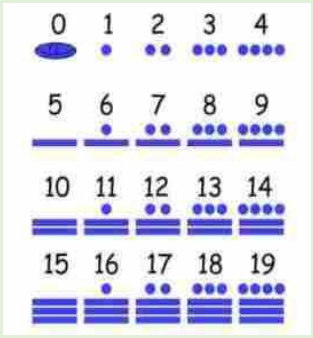
An example of a Maya Pyramid



EI Castillo was built as a temple to the god Kukulkan (a powerful snake god). It has 365 steps, one for each day of the year.

Mayan Language and Number

The Maya developed one of the most advanced systems of writing and numbers. They used a form of writing called 'hieroglyphics' and used numbers through a system of bars and dots.





Key Facts:

The Maya believed in lots of nature gods. They believed in a scary afterlife where most people had to travel through a dark underworld where mean gods would torment them.

The Maya built large pyramids as monuments to their gods and at the top was a flat area where a temple was built.

The pyramids were covered in carvings and statues to honour the gods.

Powerful priests would perform rituals and sacrifices at the temples to keep people in the favour of the gods.

The Maya introduced the world to a lot of new foods. They considered chocolate to be a gift from the gods. They used the cacao seeds (from the Cacao tree) as a form of money.

The most important food that the Maya ate was maize which is a vegetable like corn, They made many other foods from this.

The Maya were ruled by kings. They believed that their king was given the right to rule by the gods.

The Maya kings were treated well. They wore colourful clothes made from animal skins and wore fine jewellery.

Life for a Maya commoner was hard work. They lived in small mud huts outside the cities nearer their farms.

The Maya loved to wear large hats and headdresses. The more important the person, the taller the hat they wore. They also considered crossed eyes, flat foreheads and big noses beautiful features!

Itzamna	***Kukulkan***	***Bolon Tzacab***	***Chaac***
God of Fire	**God of the People**	**God of Storms**	**God of Rain and Lightning**