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.
	
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.

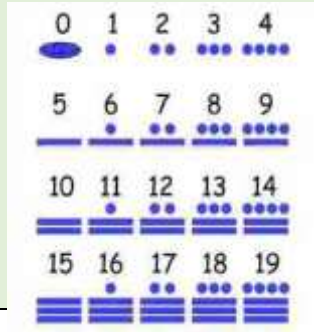
An example of a Maya Pyramid



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.



Itzamna

God of Fire



God of Storms



Chaac

God of Rain and Lightning