



A Mayan Calendar

A Mayan God



THE MAYANS

INTRODUCTION

The Mayan civilization was at its most powerful in 600 AD. It was centred in South America near the country now known as Guatemala. The Mayans are known for their skilled pottery, hieroglyphic writing, calendar making and mathematics. The Mayans were deeply religious and worshipped many Gods. They performed elaborate religious rituals and ceremonies in order to please them. They left behind examples of impressive architecture and artwork.

KEY VOCABULARY

Ancient	Belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence
Cacao	Seeds from a tropical evergreen tree from which cocoa and chocolate is made
Civilization	A human society with its own social organisation and culture
Culture	Activities such as the arts and food which are considered to be important
Drought	A long period of time when no rain falls
Erosion	The destruction and removal of soil and rock by the weather
Fertile	Soil rich in nutrients, making it good for growing plants
Hierarchy	A system of organising people in to different levels of importance in society
Hieroglyphics	A system of writing that uses pictures
Sacrifice	A sacrifice is an offering of food, an object or the life of an animal in order to please the gods
Society	A community of people living together, sharing a way of life
Tomb	A large room, sometimes underground, where the dead are placed

WHERE DID THE MAYANS LIVE?



DID YOU KNOW ...?

The Mayans predicted the world would end in 2012

Noblewomen would file their teeth in to sharp points

Flat heads were fashionable so babies' heads were put in a press to flatten them

It was the highest honour to be sacrificed

The Mayan Number System

