

# The Maya - History

## Key Vocabulary

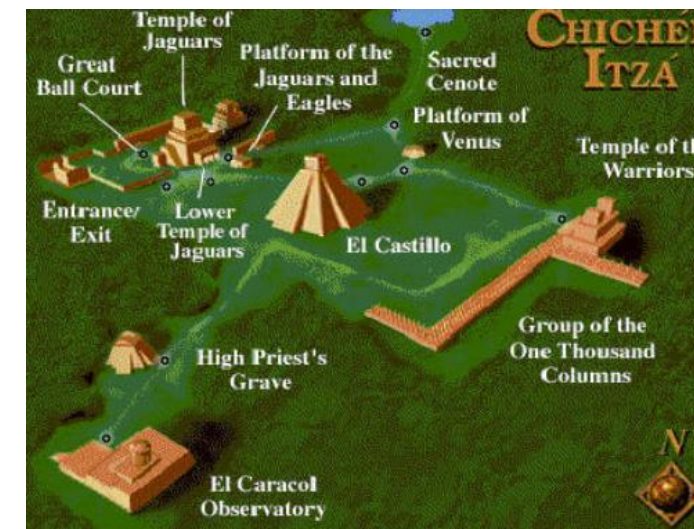
<b>Pok a tok</b>	A game where large rubber balls were aimed at stone hoops. Losers were sometimes sacrificed to the gods!
<b>Century</b>	A period of one hundred years.
<b>Decade</b>	A period of ten years.
<b>Era</b>	A period of time in history. An era often begins or ends with an important event.
<b>Sacrifice</b>	The slaughtering of an animal or human as an offering to please a god or gods.
<b>Chronology</b>	The arrangement of events or dates in the order of their occurrence.
<b>Maize</b>	A cereal grain (corn) which was the staple food of the Mayans. It was so important that they even had a maize god.
<b>Currency</b>	A system of money used in a particular country or civilisation.
<b>Vigesimal number system</b>	The Mayan number system was based on the number 20.
<b>Civilisation</b>	Human society which is organised.
<b>Artefact</b>	An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.
<b>The Maya</b>	The American-Indian People of Central America.
<b>Settlement</b>	A place where people have come to live and have built homes.



## Sticky Knowledge:

- Pok ta Pok was a Maya ball game where participants were only allowed to use knees and hips.
- The Maya existed for approximately 3600 years between 2000BC – 1600AD.
- The Maya were located in Central America.
- Chichen Itza was an important Maya city with features such as temples, ball courts, wall of skulls.
- The Maya used the base 20 number system and had the following symbols:

Timeline	
<b>The Preclassic Period (1800BC to 250 AD)</b>	Great growth of the Maya. Small villages evolved into cities. Hierarchy began to emerge.
<b>Classic Period (250- 1000 AD)</b>	Maya culture flourished. City states began to take over smaller neighbouring cities.
<b>Post Classic Maya (1000 AD onwards)</b>	City of Chichen Itza became very powerful with strong economy and military powers.
<b>Spanish Arrive (1500s)</b>	Ships with Spanish explores arrive. Brought diseases with them which killed many Mayans/.
<b>Heran Cortes (1519)</b>	A Spanish explorer. Conquered the Mayans and began to remove Mayan Culture.



## What Is Poc A Tok

- Poc A Tok was an ancient Mayan game played hundreds of years ago. It was a game that involved soccer, basketball, and racket ball put together. The point of the game is to get the ball through a hoop that is placed about 28 feet off the ground. The ball had to be kept in constant motion using only your body and not your hands.



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