

Did you know?

The *Preclassic* (2000BC - 250AD) period was generally seen by archaeologists as a time when the Maya were developing and there were villages and towns, but not cities or civilization. Writing and cities came later during the so-called *Classic* (250AD - 900AD) period. However, in the past 20 years or so we are finding evidence for writing, kings and pyramids much earlier, going back to at least 300 BC!

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Mesoamerica

The Maya lived in an area called **Mesoamerica**. This is an area that is defined by culture (food, sports and writing), not borders.

The ancient Maya lived in a region that today includes parts of Guatemala, Belize, Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador. The land was varied and included coastal plains, volcanic highlands and rainforests.



What's that noise?

The rainforest is full of creatures, some strange, some beautiful and some scary. If you travelled to the rainforest today you might see jaguars, bats, toucans, parrots, rattlesnakes, spiders and scorpions. Point your device at the howler monkey to hear the incredible (and scary) noise it makes!



Maya Mythbuster - The Maya were a primitive people

The Maya created and sustained an incredible civilization in a harsh environment and built spectacular temples, pyramids and palaces without the use of metal tools, the wheel, or domesticated animals (donkey, ox or elephant). They developed a full writing system and produced very accurate calendars and astronomical charts. And if you like chocolate, thank the Maya!