

The Ancient Maya



Who?

The ancient Maya were a civilisation that lived between 2000 BCE to around 1500AD. They lived in Mesoamerica, which is now known as Southern Mexico and Central America (above). They were an extremely successful civilisation and were highly advanced in writing, art and science for a people living back then. Temples and pyramids can still be seen today in the jungles of Central America.

Mesoamerica was made up of mountains, coasts and rainforests. The lowlands were near the sea and the highlands were in the mountains. It was not until 250 BCE that the Mayas began to settle around the lowlands more.

Modern Mayas

Today, there are millions of people who are descendants of the ancient Maya living in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. Their ancient Mayan heritage is still present in the languages that they speak and they are not completely westernised, despite the Spanish conquest of the Yucatan in the late 1600s.

