



Were the Mayans ahead of their time?

Word	Definition
Meso-America	Middle American– the countries we know today as Central America
network	A system of
urban	Related to a city or town
rural	Related to the countryside
civilization	Complex urban society
impact	An effect or influence
structure	A building
period	A length of time

Key Knowledge and Concepts

The Maya wasn't one country or empire, but many separate city-states called the Meso-America.

The Mayan culture was established in 1000BCE close to the time of the Iron Age in Britain. During the Mayan times, the Vikings came to Britain.



A king would rule each Maya city. Some Maya cities were huge and centred around a huge plaza. This served as a meeting place for ceremonies and festivals, as well as a marketplace. The less important someone was, the further away from the

Plaza they lived. The Maya built a huge network of roads to connect the cities and countryside. It is said that the roads held the Maya world together and also supported a thriving trade network.



The Maya developed inventive ways to count and were the first civilization to use the zero (0) (1000 years before it was used in Europe) They used hieroglyphs (like the Ancient Egyptians) to develop a written language.

Cacao trees were found in the rainforest and they produced cacao beans. These could be used to make chocolate. As well as a refreshing drink, the dried beans were used as money.

