

# HA Annual Conference

16 & 17 May 2014

Holiday Inn, Stratford upon Avon

## *Why should we remember the Maya?*

*A Global Learning Partnership workshop.*

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**History:**  
*gossip well told*

 *Elbert Hubbard*

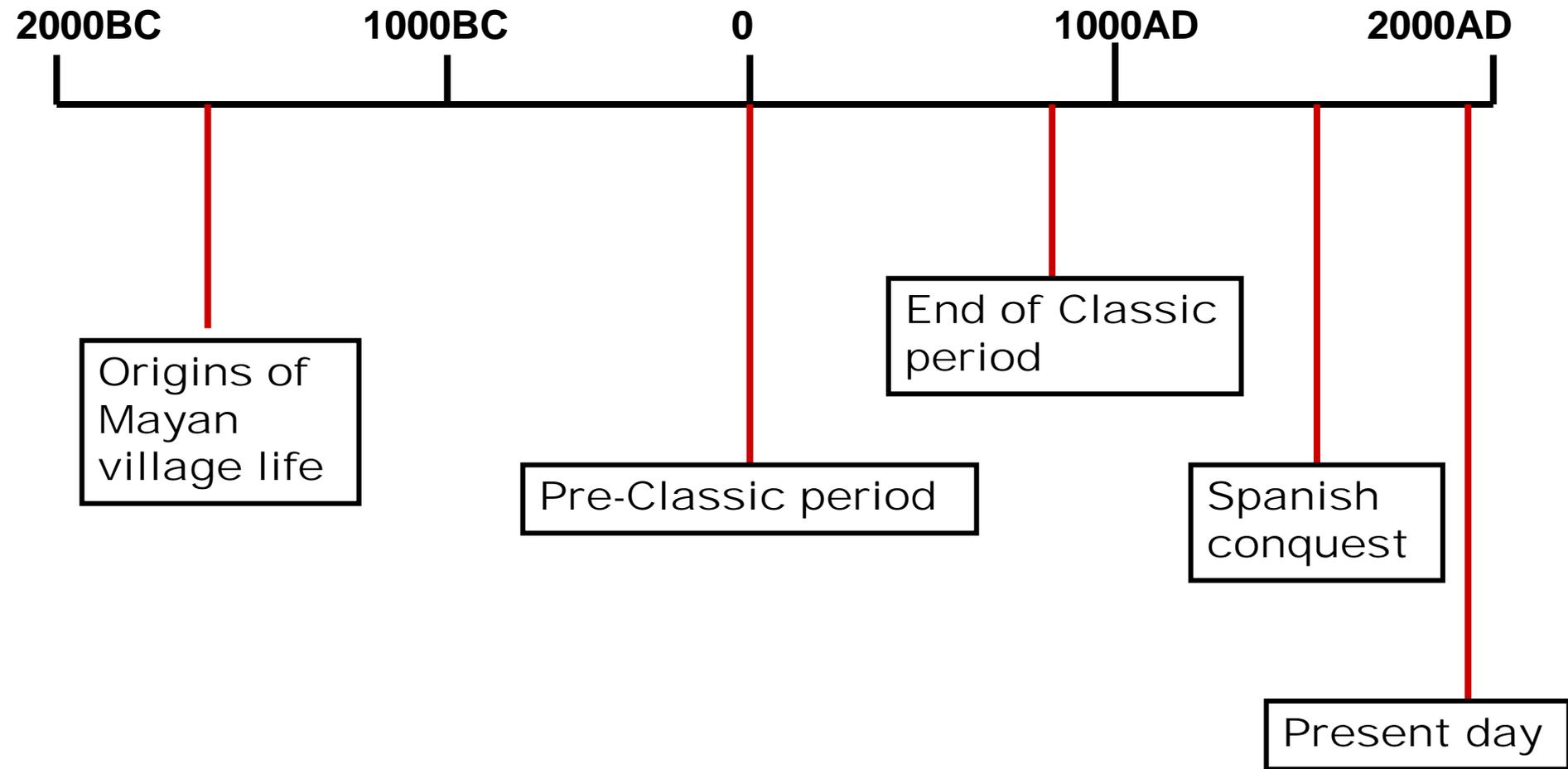
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# How do we know?

- Present day Maya peoples
- Archaeological remains
- Spanish Conquest sources
- Artefacts and hieroglyphs
- Oral tradition





# The Mayan Civilization







Pyramid at Tikal



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The Maize god,  
from the British  
Museum





[mayan music](#)



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Illustrated by Tanveer Taj



Illustrated by Tanveer Taj





The Mayans had two calendars - 365 day 'farming' calendar and a 260 'sacred' or religious calendar



The *twenty* days of the week



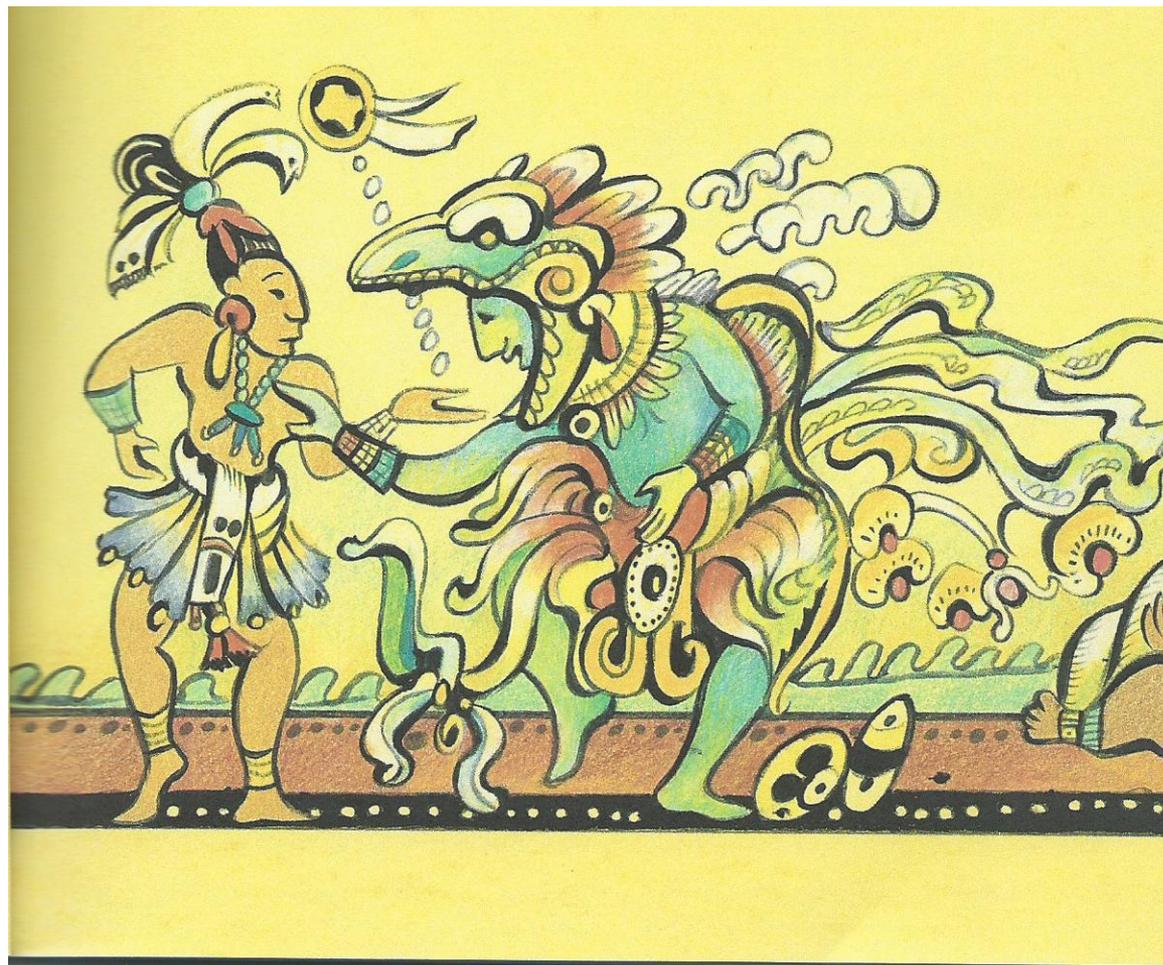
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Kulkulan  
gives the  
Maya seeds  
and tells  
them how to  
grow them



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## Farming:



Cocoa.

## Rainforest:

'gardens' provide variety



# Foods the Mayans gave us:

- Maize
- Chocolate
- Vanilla
- Chillies
- Sweet potato
- Squash
- Papaya
- Avocado
- Tomato
- Black beans



## Natural resources:

- Limestone for building
- Obsidian for weapons
- Flint for tools
- Salt
- Jade for religious ornaments
- Quetzal feathers

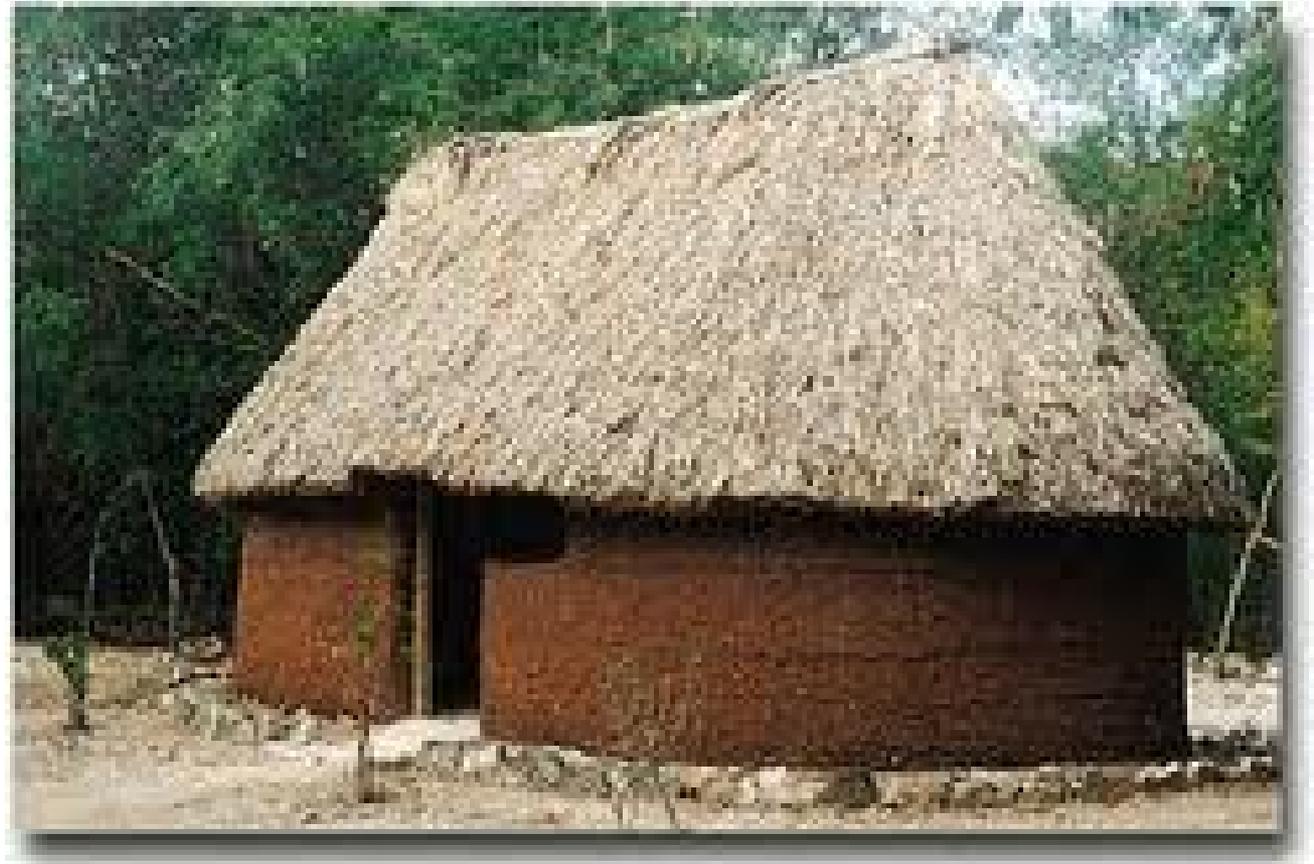




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Ball court at Uxmal



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## Why decline around 900AD?

- Drought over 200 years
- Overpopulation
- Too much deforestation
- Over-population
- Stopped building monuments
- Upland areas become more important
- Last recorded date on a Mayan stela is 904AD
- Destroyed by warfare?



The Copan stela dates to 732AD

What to focus on?

When to focus on?



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# A good history enquiry process might:

- 1 Setting the motivating challenge
- 2 Gathering information
- 3 'Working' the information
- 4 Making judgements
- 5 Refining thinking
- 6 Communicating understanding in as imaginative and varied ways as possible



# Possible enquiry questions:

## Why should we remember the Maya?

- Who were the Maya?
- What was so special about them?
- Why did they die out?
- What can the Maya today tell us about the Maya 1000 years ago?

## Links to other NC history topics:

- Egypt or Sumer or Indus Valley
- Stone Age
- Greeks
- today



## Links to other NC subjects:

- Geography
- Science
- Technology
- Music
- Art
- Mathematics
- Creative writing
- ICT
- Food technology



## Some resources:

- Primary History article – forthcoming
- Mexicolore - <http://mexicolore.co.uk/>
- British Museum - [https://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/cultures/the\\_americas/maya.aspx](https://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/cultures/the_americas/maya.aspx)
- History Lesson openers – [www.tts-group.co.uk](http://www.tts-group.co.uk)
- BBC History - [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/cultures/maya\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/cultures/maya_01.shtml)
- Maya Civilisation - <http://www.indians.org/welker/maya.htm>

## Some places to visit:

- British Museum
- University of Cambridge, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology
- Liverpool Museum
- Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia
- Pitts-Rivers Museum, Oxford