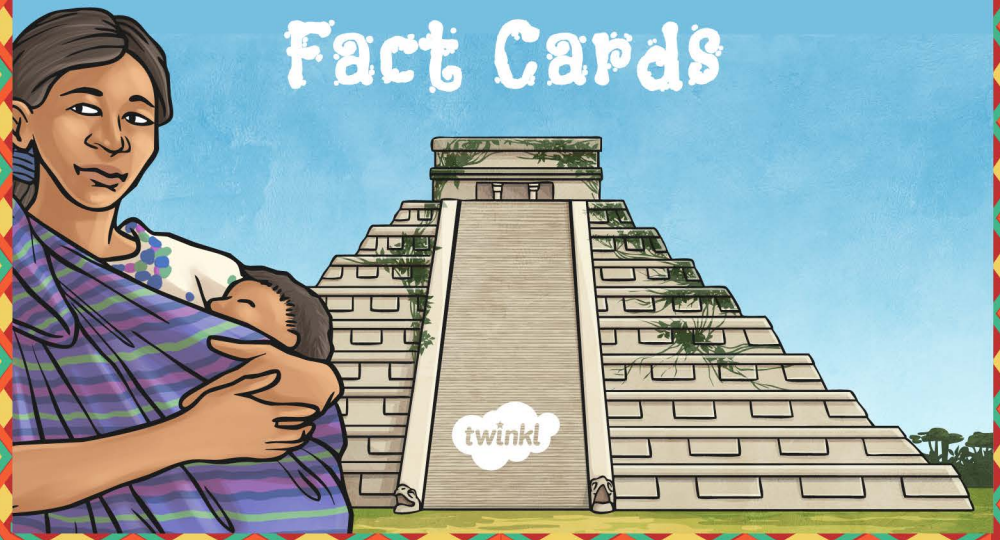
The Maya Civilisation Fact Cards



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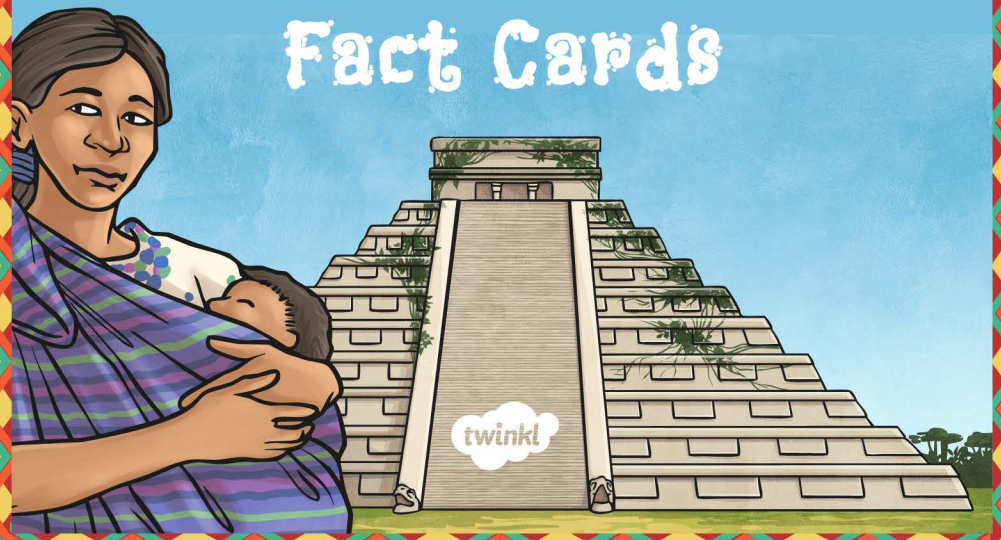

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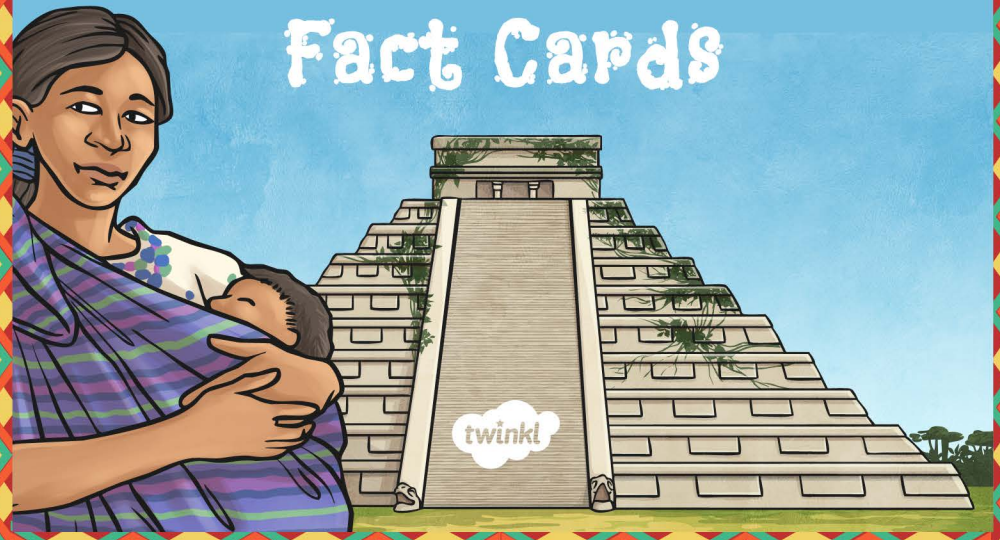

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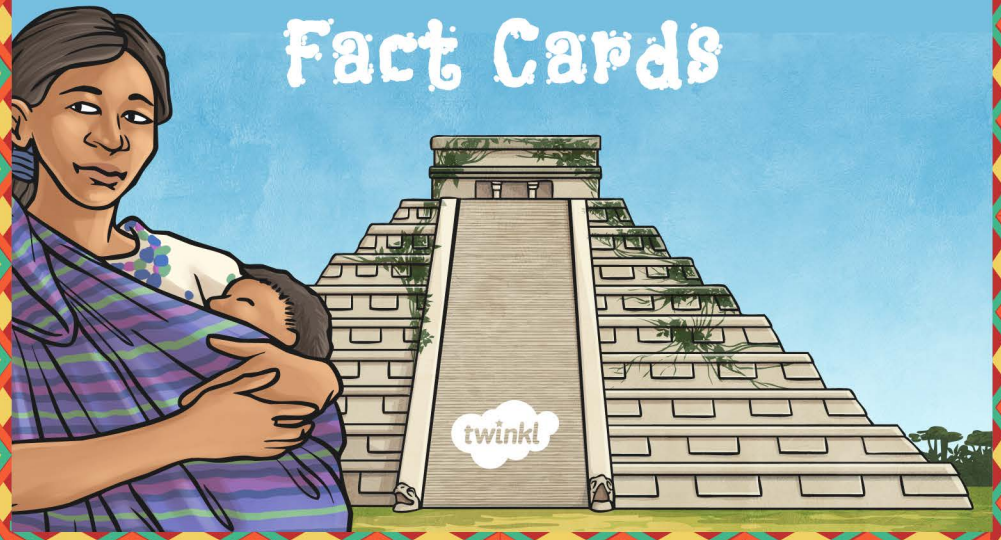

The Maya people developed their own calendars, writing and number systems.

The Maya civilisation started around 2000 BC.

The Maya civilisation developed in the south-east area of Mesoamerica.

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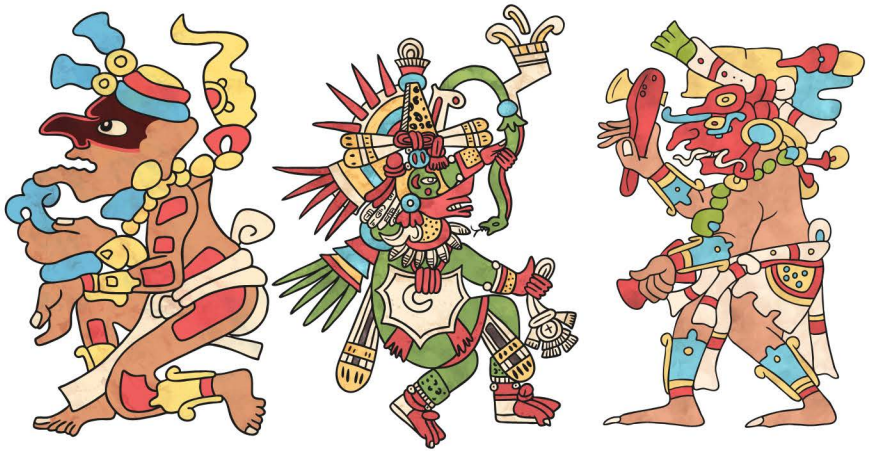
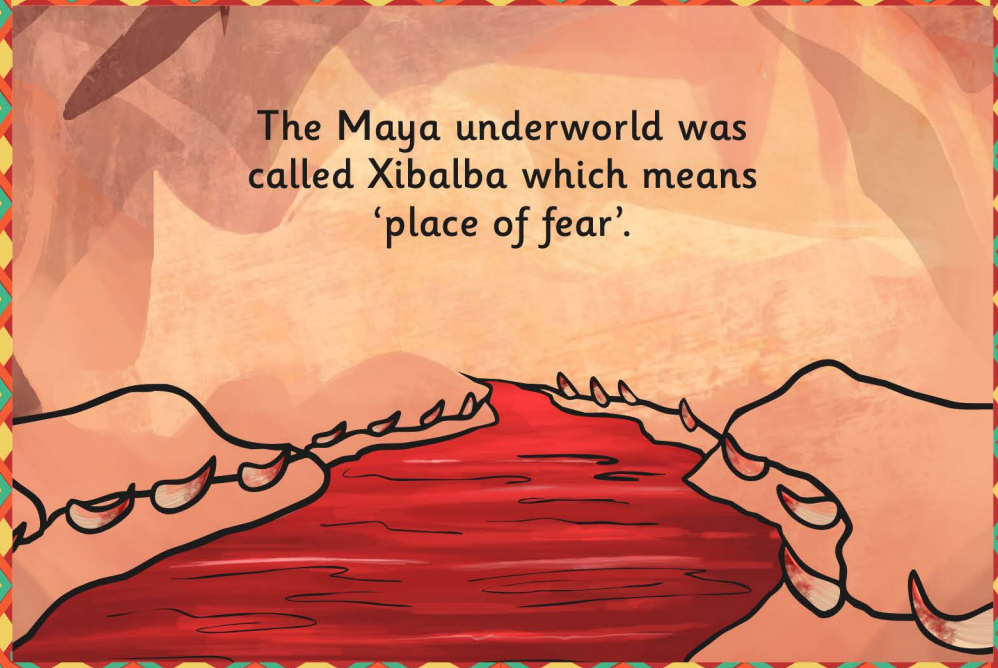


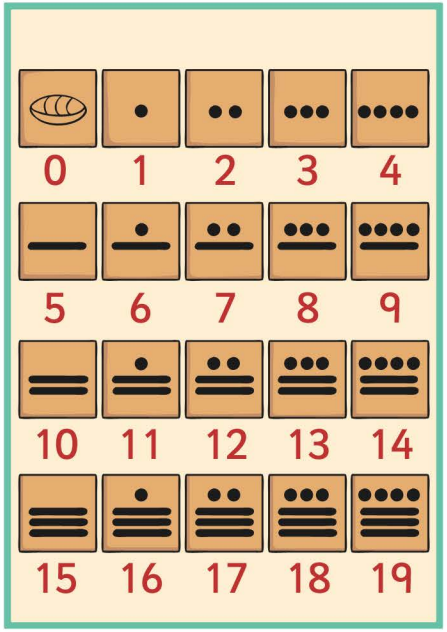
The Maya people had many deities and each had many different guises.

The Maya played a ball game called 'pok-ta-pok'.



The Maya underworld was called Xibalba which means 'place of fear'.

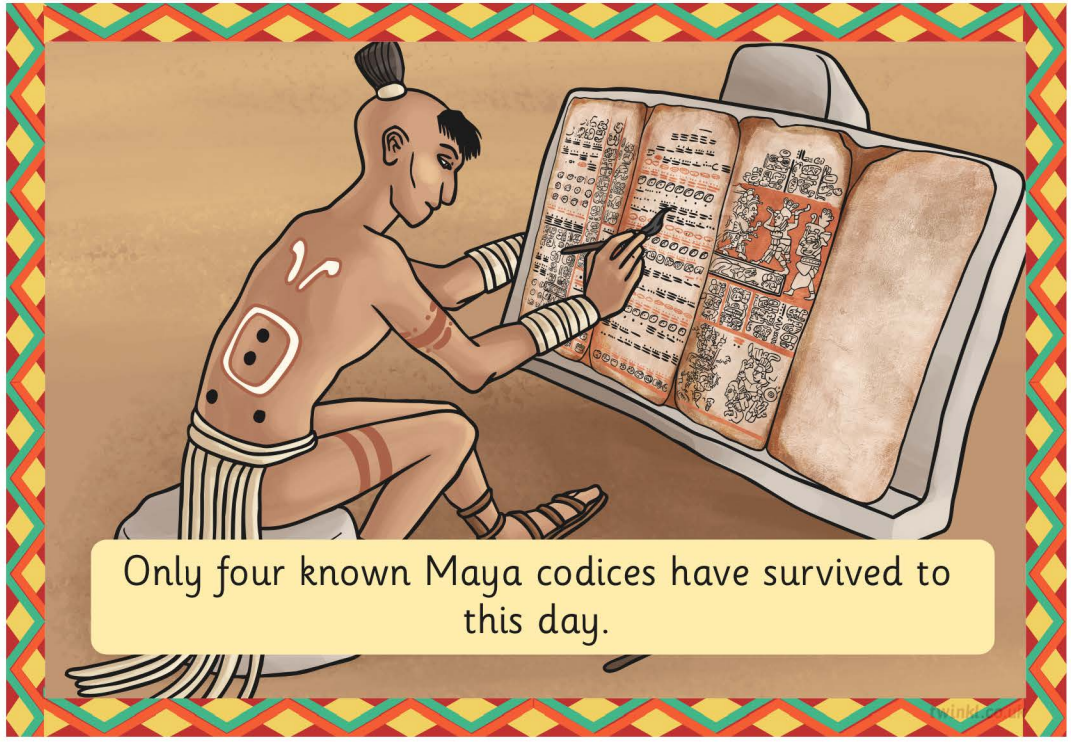
The Maya people used a base 20 number system called vigesimal.



One of Copan's kings was called 18 Rabbit!

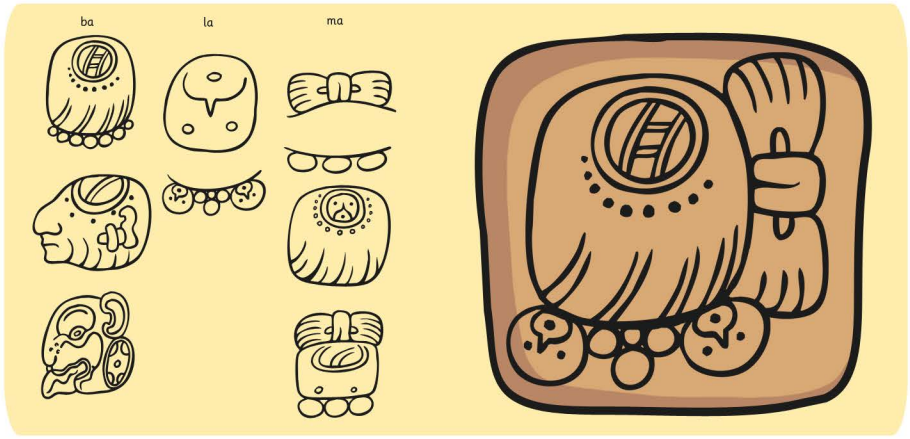
In August 2014, two Maya cities called Lagunita and Tamchen were re-discovered in Campeche, Mexico.

The Maya people wrote books called codices. These were made from the bark of fig trees.

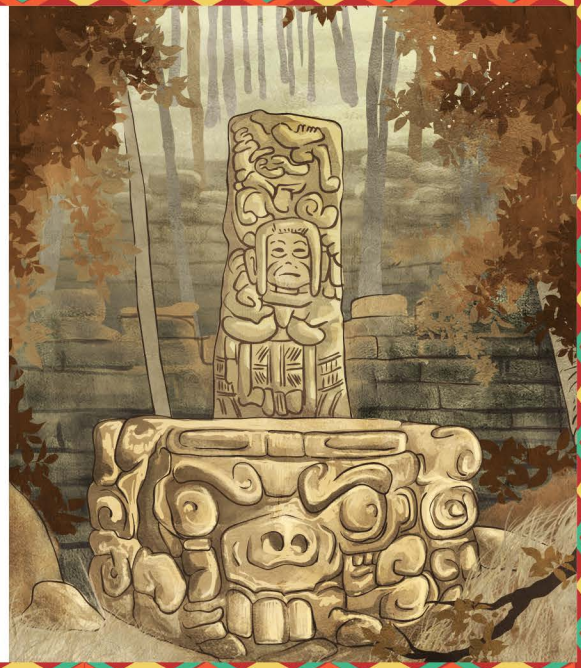


Only four known Maya codices have survived to this day.

Maya hieroglyphic writing is a mixed script composed of both syllables and logographs (word pictures).



Maize or corn was the main food of the Maya people and made up to 80% of their diet.

The Maya people first used cocoa beans to make chocolate drinks and later in Maya history they were also used as a form of currency (after AD 1100).

Frederick Catherwood produced many detailed drawings of what he and Lloyd Stephens discovered in Copan.