

Last week we looked at these five questions:

1. Who were the ancient Maya people?
2. When did they live?
3. Where did they live?
4. How did they live?
5. What do we know about them?

Now you have researched into the Mayans and have some idea about them we are going to look into one very important area: Gods.

The Maya people believed that the Earth, which they called the Middleworld, was large and flat and resting on the back of a creature (like a turtle or crocodile).

On the Middleworld grew a tree whose branches reached up into the heavens (the Uppeworld) and whose roots grew down into Xibalba (the Underworld) which was guarded by gods of death who looked like jaguars.

The Maya believed that after they died, their souls would travel through a series of caves and tunnels to Xibalba (which means 'place

What do you think about the Mayan's beliefs?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSMTdGqw8Jc>

Mayan Gods

Maize God - From his head
sprouted an ear of maize.



Itzamna - One of the creator
Gods.



Ixchel - Wife of Itzamna -
Goddess of midwifery and
medicine



Kimi - death God



For Mayans, each God was special and important but here is a question for you: which one was most important? If you were to ask me, I would rate the Maize God highly because he can provide me with food...but then there's Ixchel, who will care for me if I am sick but Itamna. Well, he can create a God that cures me!

Activity One

Between these four Gods, pick which one is most important. Write a paragraph explaining why you think this (think of our persuasive writing in English) and try and convince your reader.

Activity Two

There were hundreds of Mayan Gods. Now it's time to design your own.

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Drawing of your god</u>
<u>Meaning of name:</u>	
<u>God of what?</u>	
<u>What do they carry/wear?</u>	<u>Any other information?</u>
<u>What sacrifices have to be made to this god?</u>	

Activity Three

What myth might your God be at the centre of?

What event could be explained by their actions?

Write the myth or explain the event. It can be as beautiful or as savage as you like!

Myth - a traditional story, especially one concerning the early history of a people or explaining a natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events.

"ancient Celtic myths"

Think of Disney's Hercules or Maui (from Moana) they were all Gods, whose actions are believed to influence the world.

Here's an example, listen to the lyrics. Maui explains how things on Earth, like the sky and fire, came to be because of his actions. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79DijItQXMM>

