

Year 5 Topic Task: Week 5

L.I. To describe the characteristics and features of past societies.

Success Criteria

I can identify and describe different ways in which the past has been interpreted
I can produce structured work, making appropriate use of dates and terms
I can use artefacts to inform my knowledge of a time period.

The Maya worshipped many gods. Mayan gods could change themselves into human and animal shapes. Priests performed ceremonies to keep the gods happy. The Maya thought the world was divided into three parts the Heavens, the Earth, and the Underworld, which were linked together by a giant World Tree. Mayan kings were also thought to become gods after death.



Figure 1 Mayan maize god

Your task: Write a paragraph describing different Mayan gods and their roles in Mayan society.

Why did the Mayans carve their deities into stone?

Can you think of any religions today that represent their gods in a similar way?



Figure 2 Ah Puch - Mayan god of death

Key words: worship, ritual, portrayal, scripture, engravings, priests, carving, ceremonies