

# Aim

**Facts about the Maya civilisation.**

## Success Criteria

- I can label a map to show where the Maya lived and where some main cities were.

# Maya People

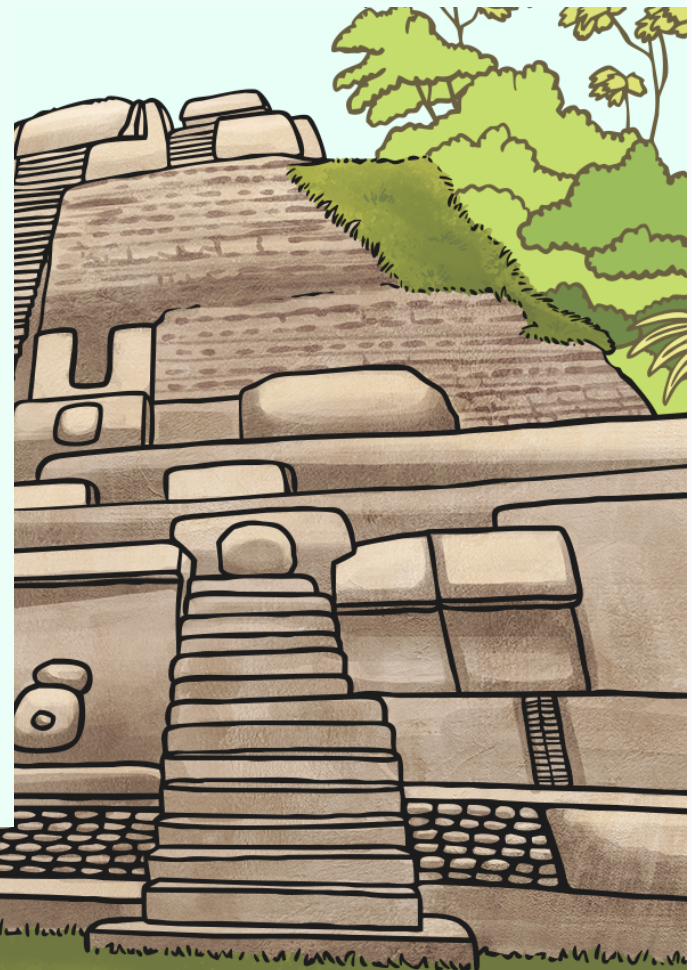
The ancient Maya people were quite a sophisticated bunch! They developed a writing and number system; studied and charted the stars and planets; invented three complex calendars to keep track of time; built impressive temples, palaces, monuments and cities; skilfully farmed the land and established a complex political system.

The ancient Maya were a clever, deeply religious people who valued intelligence and learning. This helps to explain how and why they were able to develop a complex, thriving civilisation which began over 2000 years ago.

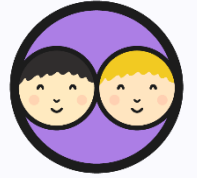


# The Ancient Maya Place in Time

- The Maya civilisation came into being around 2000 BC and cities such as El Mirador became large and powerful from 300 BC onwards.
- By around AD 900, cities in the rainforest were abandoned and people moved up north to the highlands of Guatemala and the Yucatan. This was because there was an extensive drought in the area that lasted a long time and people needed to move out of the rainforest.
- Cities like Chichen Itza were still thriving in AD 1000 and the Maya civilisation was still in existence in AD 1500.
- It was due to the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century that their ancient cities fell to ruin.



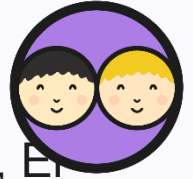
# Maya Maps



See if you can locate Central America on your map or atlas. **What countries can you find in Central America?**



# Central America



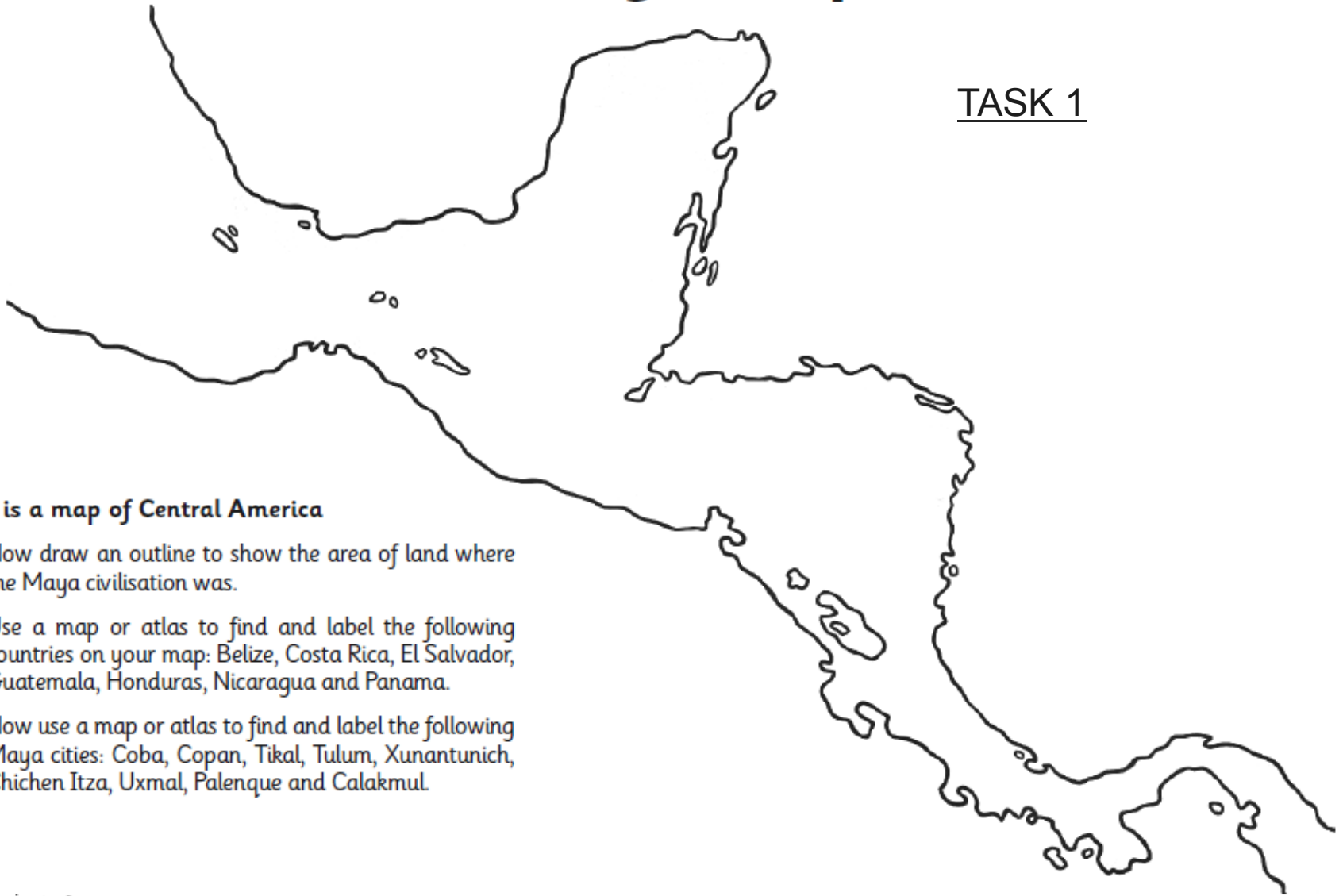
Central America consists of seven countries: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

**Can you find and label these on your Maya Map Activity Sheet?**



# Maya Map

## TASK 1



**This is a map of Central America**

- Now draw an outline to show the area of land where the Maya civilisation was.
- Use a map or atlas to find and label the following countries on your map: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.
- Now use a map or atlas to find and label the following Maya cities: Coba, Copan, Tikal, Tulum, Xunantunich, Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Palenque and Calakmul.

# Mesoamerica

‘Mesoamerica refers to an area where a number of societies had been formed before the Spanish arrived in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It covers Mexico and the northern parts of Central America. ‘Mesoamerica’ can also refer to the culture of the people who lived there. The Maya lived in the south east of



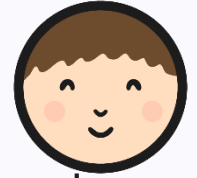
# The Location of the Maya

Today, the area the Maya used to live in spreads over 5 countries: Mexico (southern Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula), Belize, Guatemala, a small area of west Honduras and the very north of El Salvador.





# Maya Cities



Use your map or atlas to outline the area of land where the Maya used to live.

**Can you use a map or atlas to find and label the countries listed on your activity sheet?**

Then find the location of the following ancient Maya cities and mark them on your map to show where they lived. Use arrows and label

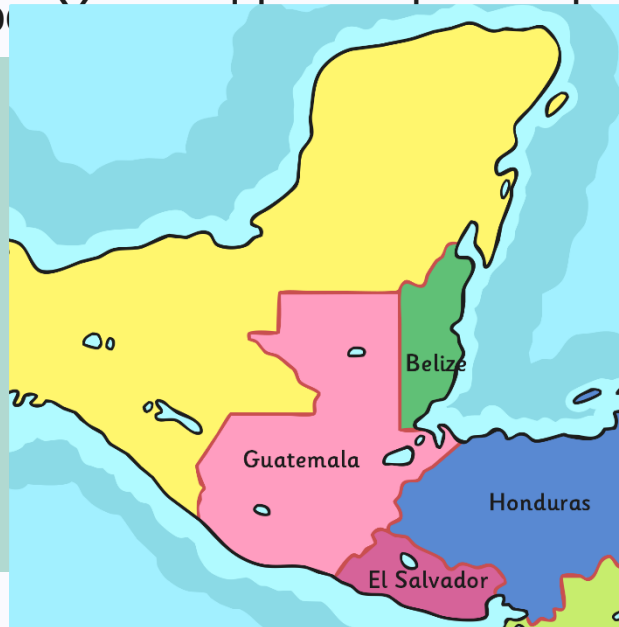
**Xunantunich**

**Chichen Itza**

**Uxmal**

**Palenque**

**Calakmul**



**Coba**

**Copán**

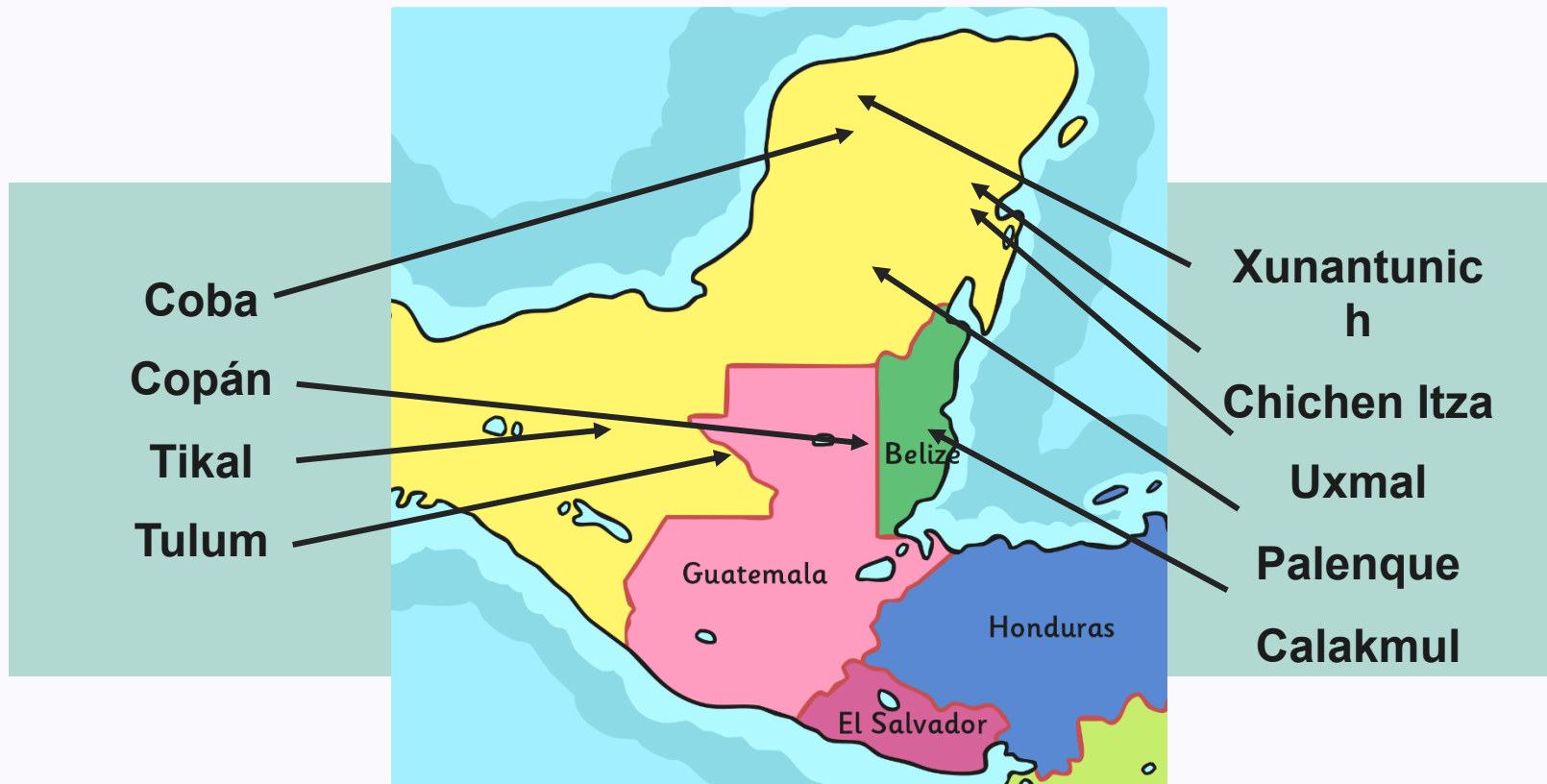
**Tikal**

**Tulum**

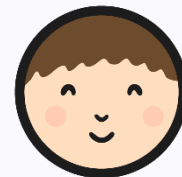
# Cities Revealed



Some of these ancient Maya cities were almost 1000km apart yet they shared the same culture and way of life.



# Welcome to the Maya Area



Your challenge is to create a 'Welcome to the Maya Area' tourist information page.

The page must include details which answer the following questions:

1. Who were the ancient Maya people?
2. Where in the world did they live?
3. What is special about the ancient Maya people?

You can use maps and pictures on your page too.



**FACT HUNT!**

Developed a number and counting system.

Established a complex political system.

Culture started around 2000 BC.

Valued intelligence and learning.

Invented calendars to keep track of time.

Developed a writing system with over 800 glyphs.

Civilisation was at its peak from around 300 BC.

Lived in organised cities with lots of amenities.

Built impressive temples/pyramids, palaces, monuments and cities.

Skilfully farmed the land.

Studied and charted the stars and planets.

Lived in the area of Central America and part of Mexico.

Developed a complex, thriving civilisation.

Clever, deeply religious people.

# Video clips

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/articles/zqv6msg>

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/articles/zg2htv4>

TASK 2  
Complete the  
Planning sheet  
And create a  
Tourist information  
Sheet.



# Welcome to the Maya Area

Your challenge is to create a 'Welcome to the Maya Area' tourist information page.

The page must include details which answer the following questions:

- Who were the ancient Maya people?
- Where in the world did they live?
- What is special about the ancient Maya people?

You can use maps and pictures on your page too.

Use the writing frame and the facts in the grid below to help you to organise your information.

Developed a number and counting system.	Lived in organised cities with lots of amenities.
Established a complex political system.	Built impressive temples/pyramids, palaces, monuments and cities.
Culture started around 2000 BC.	Skilfully farmed the land.
Valued intelligence and learning.	Studied and charted the stars and planets.
Invented calendars to keep track of time.	Lived in the area of Central America and part of Mexico.
Developed a writing system with over 800 glyphs.	Developed a complex, thriving civilisation.
Civilisation was at its peak from around 300 BC.	Clever, deeply religious people.

The Ancient Maya People	Where They Lived
What is Special About Them	

# Aim



- LO: To discover facts about the Maya civilisation.

# Success Criteria

- I can recall and organise relevant facts about the Maya civilisation.
- I can label a map to show where the Maya lived and where some main cities were.