

Knowledge Organiser - Mayan Masks (Y4)

Vocabulary

Maya	A civilisation who lived in modern-day Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador.
Mask	A covering for all or part of the face, worn as a disguise, or to amuse or frighten others.
Textile	A type of cloth or woven fabric.
Thread	A long, thin strand of cotton, nylon, or other fibres used in sewing or weaving.
Sew	Join, fasten, or repair (something) by making stitches with a needle and thread or a sewing machine.
Stitch	A loop of thread or yarn resulting from a single pass or movement of the needle in sewing, knitting, or crocheting.
Weave	Form (fabric or a fabric item) by interlacing long threads passing in one direction with others at a right angle to them.
Texture	The feel, appearance, or consistency of a surface or a substance.
Weft	(In weaving) the crosswise threads on a loom that are passed over and under the warp threads to make cloth.



Maya Art

The Maya created many different types of artwork. Their art depicted their religious beliefs, their way of life, wars they had fought, how they sacrificed people and their kings. Maya kings had a desire to be remembered and art was the best way they could achieve this.

Weaving and Feather Work: From the carvings and paintings, archaeologists can say that the Mayas wore large headdresses made from feathers. These were a sign of status with the nobility wearing clothing made from feathers too.

Frescoes have been discovered on the walls of Maya temples. These frescoes show scenes of daily life, stories, battles and religious events. The most famous fresco was discovered in Bonampak in Chiapas, Mexico.



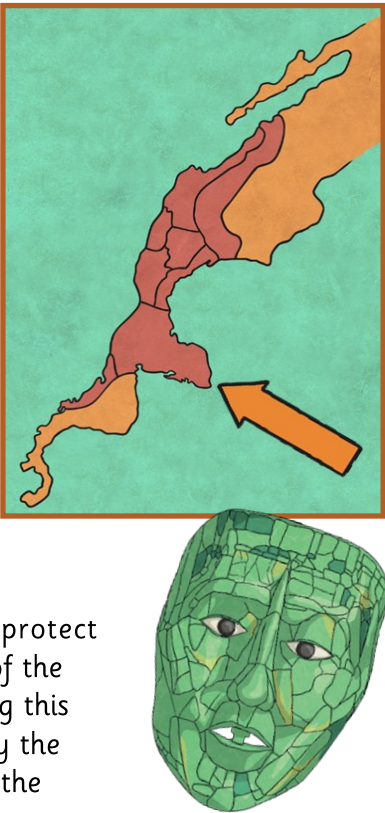
Key Facts

Who were the Maya? The Maya were a civilisation who lived in modern-day Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador. The Maya civilisation lasted from around 1000 BC to AD 1697.

What were Maya masks used for? Masks played a central role in Maya culture. They were made for a variety of occasions and purposes. In fact, they were even used to decorate temples.



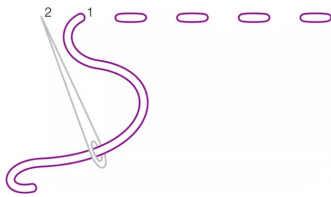
Event Masks: Masks were often inspired by animals; they were vibrant and colourful. The Mayas believed that animals represented the spirits. For example, many Maya often associated strong kings with jaguars. Event masks were usually made out of cedar wood.



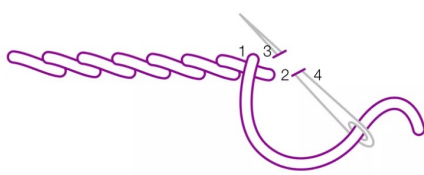
Death Masks: Mayas were buried with a death mask, which was intended to protect the wearer on their journey to the afterlife. The death mask of King Pakal is one of the most famous Maya artefacts. Pakal ruled the city of Palenque for 68 years. During this time, the city became very wealthy. Each mask was made by hand and inspired by the maker's own imagination. Jade, a precious stone, was used because it symbolised the soul.

Stitching Techniques

Running Stitch



Back Stitch



French Knot



Interesting Facts

- Some of the finest and best examples of Maya art have been found in the city of Palenque, Mexico.
- Maya artists sometimes signed their names on their artwork.
- Mayas used stucco plaster to make huge masks of their gods and kings.

1100BC

The first 'Mayan' settlements begin to appear in Mesoamerica along the pacific coast.

800BC

Instead of foraging, maize farming begins and trade between villages begins.

700BC

Mayan writing begins to develop through the form of hieroglyphs.

100BC—450AD

Maya constructs its first pyramids and developing cities, prompting the rapid rise of Tikal in the tropical lowlands.

638AD

Pakal the Great (King of Palenque) dies. His death mask made of jade is created.

800AD – 1502AD

Mayan civilization begins to decline and vanish. The Mayan ruins are found by a Spanish expedition lead by Francisco Hernández de Córdoba.

Mayan Timeline