

GOLFO DE
MÉXICO

BIENVENIDOS A MERIDA

CIVILIZACIÓN
MAYA

YUCATAN, MEXICO

Emilia Bustos Griffin

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OCEANO
PACÍFICO

100 km

Mexico Today



Maya Development

1. More than 700 hieroglyphic signs
2. System to measure time
3. Established the concept of **Zero**
4. Numeric system up to 20
5. Precise astronomic observations
6. Advanced agricultural system
7. The development of the false vault
8. **Advanced development of commerce and trade**

Architecture

The most emblematic representation of the culture are the pyramids located in religious and political centers such as Chichen Itza, Tikal and Uxmal.



Maya Agriculture

- Base of the economy and recognized as essential for the power and longevity of the culture
- Valued the knowledge to exploit natural resources
- Practiced fertilization
- Designed advanced irrigation and hydraulic systems

Organization

- Polytheistic religion
- Principal priest: **Ah- Kin May**
- Social class was integrated
 - Priests
 - Kings
 - Warriors
 - Merchants
 - Artisans
 - Peasants



Dios F. Dios de la guerra



Dios C. Divinidad de la faz ornamentada



Dios D. Dios de la noche



Dios B. Divinidad de la vida



Dios K. Divinidad de la nariz ornamentada



Dios H. Divinidad joven



Dios G. Divinidad solar



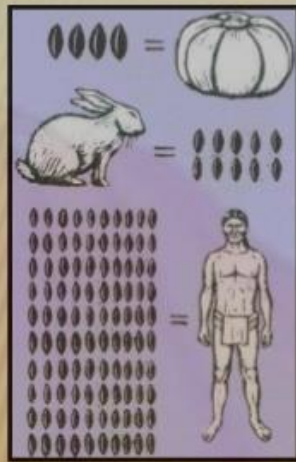
Dios N. Divinidad del final del año



Dios A. Divinidad de la muerte

Maya Commerce

EL CACAO COMO MONEDA Y COMERCIO



Tameme = “carry” in Nahuatl language

Pocheta = “merchant”

YACATECUHTLI



DIOS DEL COMERCIO

Trade

- Excellent logistics
- Trade without borders
- Commercial canoe routes
- Diverse commodities
- Implemented the credit system



The Conquest

- Spanish arrived by 1500
- Conquered and subdued the Indians
- Continued accepting the cacao as “money”
- Approx. 140 cacao seed – 1 Real Spain money.

Our Venue: Merida, Yucatan

- Yucatan = “we don’t understand you”

Ma’anaatik ka t’ann

Uh yu ka t’an

- “The Free and Sovereign State of Yucatan”
- Merida = oldest occupied city in the Americas
- The White City; City of Peace
- First street lights and tram service in Mexico
- Past center for trade in the Americas (2x)

Henequen (sisal)

- *Agave fourcroydes*
- Mayas called Ki ua
- Very important agroindustry for producing rope, cord, string, mats from 1850 to 1940 when it was replaced by synthetics
- Export volume peaked in 1916 at 210, 000 ton with a value of over \$80 millón.



“Green Gold”



“Chicle” (chewing gum)

The Maya collected latex from sapodillo fruit. They dried it to obtain gum that was used to clean teeth. They called it “*sicte*” (vital fluid)

The Aztecs called it “*Tzicttl*” (to paste)

The Spanish called it “Chicle”

The first gum with flavor produced in 1880

Chewing gum trade in America and Europe boomed in the early 1900s

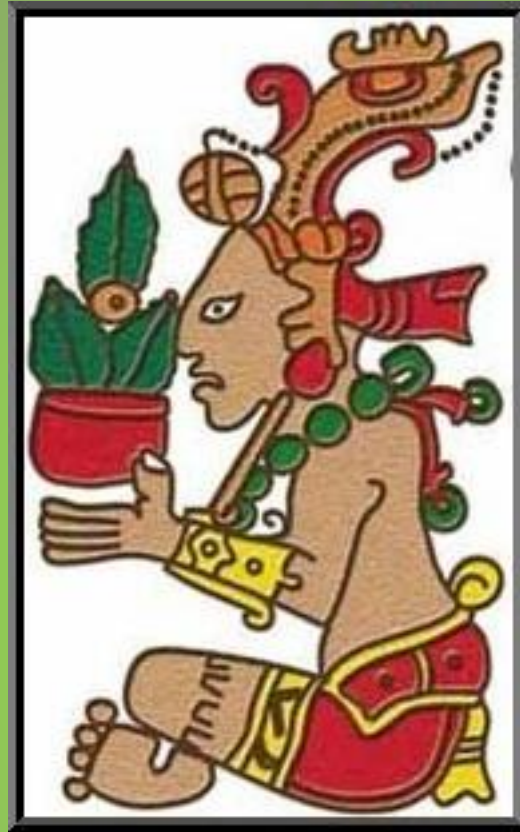
Immigration and tourism

Mass immigration of Koreans in 1905 to supplement the labor base for the henequen industry.

Tourism developed as the base of the Yucatan economy in the 1970s following a Jacques Cousteau documentary on Cancun in the 1960s.

Yucatan Trade: *Lessons learned*

- Money DOES grow on [cacao] trees
- Trade increases prosperity; reduces warfare
- Trade spreads culture and language
- Logistics create an advantage
- Intercontinental trade is more complex
- Diversification is important for sustainability
- Anticipating and embracing change is important for survival



Mayan God *Yumil Kaxob*, the Maize God is representative of the ripe grain which was the base of the Mayan agriculture system.