



Why did the Ancient Maya change the way they lived?

- The cause of the abandonment of the great jungle cities of the Maya over a period of perhaps 200 years remains one of the greatest archaeological mysteries of the world.
- Although their cities collapsed, Maya culture did not disappear. Their cultural links to life in the ancient jungle cities over 1,000 years ago are still very strong.

Key Vocabulary	
Abandon	To give up and leave.
Climate	The weather conditions in an area in general or over a long period.
Codices	An ancient manuscript text in book form.
Constellations	A group of stars forming a recognisable pattern
Chronology	The arrangement of events or dates in the order of their occurrence.
Deforestation	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.
Discover	Find unexpectedly or during a search.
Fertile	Producing or bearing many crops in great quantities.
Humid	Marked by a relatively high level of water vapour in the atmosphere.
Plantations	An estate on which crops such as coffee, sugar, and tobacco are grown
Rediscover	Discover something forgotten or ignored again.

- Maya society established magnificent ceremonial cities in the jungles of Central America – places where ordinary people who were mostly farmers, visited for special religious or seasonal ceremonies and rituals.
- The Maya civilisation was made of city-states that traded and sometimes fought each other.

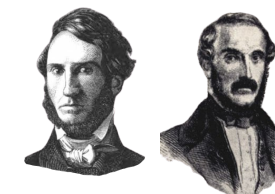


- The Mayans used picture writing, hieroglyphics to communicate. They even created books known as codices, as well as their own number system.



- The Maya society developed an expert awareness and understanding of the make-up and movement of the constellations of the night sky.

- John Stephens and Frederick Catherwood rediscovered the lost jungle cities of the ancient Maya in the 19th century.



<u>00</u> Jesus Christ was born.	<u>43 AD</u> Roman invasion in Britain.	<u>79 AD</u> Mount Vesuvius in Pompeii, Italy erupted.	<u>250 AD</u> Maya entered the Classic Period where they built cities with temples and palaces and their population peaked.	<u>449 AD</u> Anglo-Saxon invasion in Britain.	<u>800's AD</u> Viking invasion in England.	<u>900 AD – 1100 AD</u> The Maya people begin to abandon their jungle cities due to a variety of interconnected reasons.	<u>1839 AD</u> John Stephens and Frederick Catherwood rediscover the Maya cities.	<u>1922 AD</u> Howard Carted discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun.
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