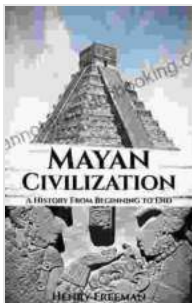


# Mayan Civilization: A Journey Through Time From Beginning to End

The Mayan civilization, one of the most advanced and enigmatic in Mesoamerican history, flourished in the rainforests of southern Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and western Honduras from approximately 2000 BCE to 900 CE. Their achievements in astronomy, mathematics, architecture, and art continue to amaze and inspire researchers and the general public alike.

This comprehensive article will take you on a chronological journey through the rise, golden age, and decline of the Mayan civilization. We will explore the key events, cultural practices, and societal structures that shaped this extraordinary civilization.

The origins of the Mayan civilization can be traced back to the Preclassic period (2000-900 BCE). During this time, the Maya people lived in small, scattered farming communities in the lowlands of what is now southeastern Mexico and northern Guatemala.



## Mayan Civilization: A History From Beginning to End

by Shalane Flanagan

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2402 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 61 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Around 900 BCE, the Maya began to develop a distinct culture and civilization. They constructed monumental pyramids, elaborate temples, and sophisticated irrigation systems. They also developed a complex system of hieroglyphic writing and a sophisticated calendar.

The Classic period (250-900 CE) was the golden age of the Mayan civilization. During this time, the Maya built their great cities, such as Tikal, Palenque, and Copán. They also reached the height of their intellectual and artistic achievements.

**Astronomy and Mathematics:** The Maya were brilliant astronomers and mathematicians. They developed a calendar that was more accurate than the Gregorian calendar used today. They also had a sophisticated understanding of astronomy and could predict solar eclipses and other celestial events.

**Architecture:** The Maya were master builders. They constructed massive pyramids, temples, and palaces. Their architecture is characterized by its use of intricate carvings, stucco reliefs, and corbelled arches.

**Art:** The Maya were skilled artists. They produced beautiful ceramics, sculptures, and murals. Their art often depicted scenes from mythology and history.

Around 800 CE, the Mayan civilization began to decline. The exact reason for the collapse is unknown, but it is thought to have been caused by a

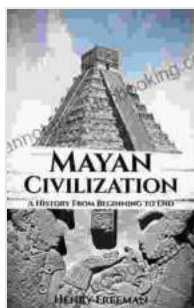
combination of factors, including environmental changes, warfare, and disease.

During the Terminal Classic period (800-1000 CE), many of the major Mayan cities were abandoned. The Maya people continued to live in the region, but their civilization never regained its former glory.

The Mayan civilization was rediscovered by European explorers in the 16th century. Since then, archaeologists and scholars have worked to piece together the history and culture of this remarkable civilization.

Today, the legacy of the Mayan civilization can be seen in the ruins of their cities, the artifacts they left behind, and the traditions of the Maya people who continue to live in the region.

The Mayan civilization was one of the most advanced and fascinating civilizations in human history. Their achievements in astronomy, mathematics, architecture, and art continue to inspire us today. Although their civilization eventually declined, the legacy of the Maya people lives on.



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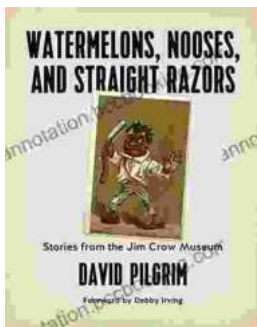
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