

What makes the ancient Maya special?

They knew about the stars



Example 1
El Caracol

Ancient Mayan Observatory from which they could see the stars.

They built great temples and cities



← Temple of
Kukulcan

Artist's drawing →
of Mayan city of
El Mirador



Example 2

They made their own books



a Mayan book called a 'codice'
Clue 1

They were great sculptors



Clue 2

Stone Sculpture of a Jaguar

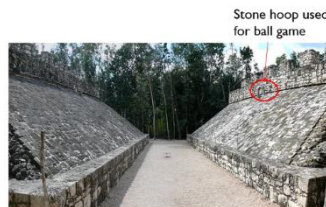
They had their own calendar



Clue 3

The Mayan Calendar

They played ball games



Stone hoop used
for ball game

This is an ancient
Mayan ball game
court. You can see
the hoop for the
ball.



A painting of players
playing the ball game.
They are wearing
padding around their
waists.

The hip was used to
move the ball through
the vertical hoop.

Clue 5

They had a special alphabet



Clue 4

Each shape represents a sound

They had a system of numbers

Maya system of counting

0 	1 •	2 ••	3 •••	4 ••••
5 —	6 • —	7 •• —	8 ••• —	9 •••• —
10 =	11 • =	12 •• =	13 ••• =	14 •••• =
15 =	16 • =	17 •• =	18 ••• =	19 •••• =
20 • 	21 •	22 ••	23 •••	24 ••••
25 • —	26 • —	27 •• —	28 ••• —	29 •••• —

Mayan positional number system

Clue 6

They worshipped gods

Mayan gods



Maize God



Chaac – Rain God

Clue 7