FACTS ABOUT MAYANS

The Mayan or Maya, people live in an area known as Mesoamerica [ modern day Mexico and central America].It was well established by 1000 BCE, and it lasted until 1697 BCE. All Maya shared a common religion, but each city governed itself and had it’s own noble ruler. These cities never came together to form a single empire. Constantly at war with each other, fighting for tribute [gifts] and prisoners to sacrifice to the gods.

1.Alot of the foods that we love today were introduced by the Maya, Aztecs and Incas.

2.The Maya produced wonderful arts and crafts with materials such as stone, wood, ceramics, jade and bones.

3.The Maya used their clever knowledge of mathematics to devise calendars. These calendars were adopted by Mesoamerica civilisations well.

4.The Maya believed that they could communicate with their gods through human sacrifice. This was also very common among the Maya.

5.Mayan cities were spread out across a large area now occupied by south eastern Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras. Each city had it’s own ruler

6.Although some Mayan cities continued to grow until the 16th century, the civilisation began to decline after 800CE.

7.Mayans were known for making chocolate. They discovered chocolate in 1519. The Mayans consumed chocolate by first harvesting the seeds -- or beans -- from cacao trees. They fermented and dried them, roasted them, removed their shells, and ground them into paste. (Much of that process remains unchanged to this day.) They often combined this paste with water, cornmeal, chili peppers, and other spices, then poured the spicy, bitter mixture back and forth between two containers to create a frothy head (a very popular feature).

8.The cacao bean and beverage were used in a variety of religious rituals honouring the Mayan gods -- the liquid chocolate sometimes standing in for blood -- and were considered "god food." The Maya even had a god of cacao..