

HISTORY RESOURCE : MAYAN GODS

Creation According the Ancient Maya

The gods made animals, but the animals didn't speak to them.

The gods tried to make humans out of clay but they were limp, and melted in the rains.

They made humans out of wood but the rains drowned them.

Eventually they made humans from zucan (maize dough) and this was a success.

A Central Belief System

Religion was an integral part of the ancient Maya culture, intertwined with all other aspects of society.

The Maya believed in and worshipped a number of different gods. They believed that the gods had a good side and a bad side and that they could help or hurt them. The Maya would dance, sing and sometimes make offerings of blood to the gods to demonstrate their respect and loyalty.



The Gods

The Ancient Maya had many, many gods (over 150!), only a few of which are mentioned by the same name in different sources.

Many of them had overlapping roles and names.

Some had human form, some took the form of an animal, others were a phenomena of nature.

Hun Ixim- Maize God

From his head sprouted an ear of maize.

Was important because the diet of the Maya was 80% maize and they relied on the harvest being successful.

Also important because humans were created from maize dough by the gods.



Chac - Rain God

Brought the rain needed to make crops grow.

Created storms, thunder and lightning.

Caused wars and human sacrifice

Portrayed as a human with a curling snout and reptile fangs.



Kinich Ahau - Sun God

Travelled across the sky during the day.

Sunk below the earth and entered the underworld every night, where he became a jaguar god.



Ah Puch

Death god.

Portrayed as a human with a skeletal nose, jaw and spine and a body covered in hideous spots.



Itzamna

One of the creator gods.

Inventor of writing.

Patron of learning.

Portrayed in human form as an old man with no teeth and a large nose.



Kukulcan

Supreme god.

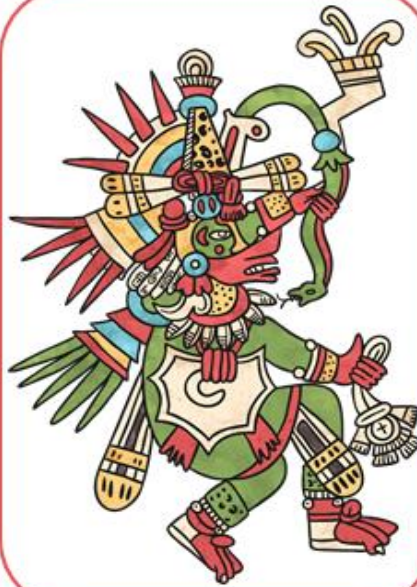
God of the four elements with the following items associated with each one:

- maize-ear (earth)
- a fish (water)
- lizard (fire)
- vulture (air)

One of the creator gods.

God of resurrection and reincarnation.

His name means 'feathered serpent'.



Ek Chuah

Ek was the god of war, human sacrifice, and violent death.

Not the kind of god you'd want to meet in person.

Ek Chuah is also the God of chocolate.