

Ahau (or Ahaw)	The king of a Maya city-state.
Aqueduct	A channel, made by man, that carries water to where it is needed.
Archaeologist	A person who studies history and investigates places and objects left behind.
Astrology	The study of the movements of the stars and planets and how they might affect people.
Astronomy	The study of the Sun, Moon, planets and stars.
Atlatl	A spear thrower.
Bacabs	Four gods who were thought to hold up the sky.
Baktun	A period of about 400 years.
Batab	A lord who usually ruled over a small town.
Birth chart	A map that shows the position of the planets when a person was born.
Cacao	The seeds of the cacao tree which are used to make cocoa and chocolate.
Ceiba	A large sacred tree found in the Maya regions.
Cenote	A reservoir found underground in the limestone of Yucatan, Mexico.
City-state	A city and the villages and land surrounding it, ruled by one leader.
Codex <i>Plural: Codices</i>	An ancient book.

Conquistadors	Groups of Spanish people who invaded Mexico and Peru in the 1500s.
Glyph	A symbol that is used to represent a word.
Haab	A period of 365 days. This was broken up into 18 twenty day periods and a five day period.
Hieroglyph	A picture of an object, used to represent a word.
Hero Twins	An important Maya story. The Hero Twins were thought to be the ancestors of the Maya.
Hotun	A period of five years.
Huipil	An embroidered dress worn by females.
Itzamna	The god of fire who created the Earth and the main god of the Maya.
Katun	A period of about 20 years.
Kin	The Sun (and also one day in the Maya Calendar).
Kukulcan	The serpent god of the Maya.
Logogram	A sign that stands for a word / phrase in writing.
Medicine man	A healer who can cure diseases using magic powers.
Obsidian	A hard rock that was used to make tools.
Ocarina	A musical instrument that makes a sound like a flute.

Pahuatun	Wind gods.
Pok-a-tok	An ancient ball game played by the Mayans. It was the first ever team sport.
Pyramid	The Maya built pyramids with flat tops (where there was a temple to their gods).
Quetzal	A bird with shiny green and red feathers. They were sacred to the Mayans.
Sacbe	A road made by the Maya for travel.
Staple	A food that is an important part of a person's diet.
Stela <i>Plural: Stelae</i>	A carved stone column that was used to mark an important event.
Thatched	The use of straw or palm leaves to keep rain and wind out of buildings.
Trance	A dream-like state that people go into when praying, dancing or meditating.
Tun	A period of about one year.
Tzolk'in	The religious calendar, lasting 260 days, used to record religious days and ceremonies.
Uinal (or Winal)	A period of 20 days.
Xibalba	The Maya underworld.