

# The Maya Creation

There were 2 stages of creation in the Maya story. The first creation was of a world with animals and the second with humans.

In the world of animals created, the gods were unsatisfied that the animals could not speak and wanted to make some better beings that could worship them properly and speak to them. So they tried to make some out of clay.



But the clay men were soon rained on and they all melted. They then tried using wood but that made some really empty, cold men. On their third attempt, the gods decided to use some paste made from some maize and water (maize for the flesh and water for the blood) and the men turned out to be perfect! This is very symbolic of how maize was a staple part of the Maya diet.



# The Maya Universe and Gods

According to the Maya, the universe was made up of a square and flat Middleworld that rested on the back of a huge turtle like creature.

The four directions of the Earth are associated with colours. The East is red, where the rising sun is. The South is yellow and the right hand of the sun.

The white North is associated with dead ancestors and the West is black, connected to death and the Underworld.

A giant tree stands in the centre of the Middleworld, with its roots reaching into the awful underworld, called 'Xibalba'.

The evil gods dwelled in this dreaded place.



## The Gods

**Name:** Ek Chuaj

**Description:** A supreme god, he was the creator of mankind and had invented writing and learning. He was depicted as a toothless old man and was always kind, unlike some other gods.





## Name: Ix Chel

**Description:** The wife of Itzamnaaj. She is the goddess of childbirth, healing, weaving and the moon. She has a snake in her hair and her toes are like jaguar claws.



## Name: Chac

**Description:** A descendant of Itzamnaaj and Ix Chel. He is the god of storms and rain. He is usually a man with the fangs of a reptile and a curling snout.



## Name: Hun Ixim

**Description:** The maize god. From his head sprouted an ear of corn and he is very important to the Maya people. Another child of Ix Chel and Itzamnaaj.



## Name: Kukulcan

**Description:** Known as 'The Feathered Serpent', he is the god of the four elements, water, air, fire and earth.



## Name: Kinich Ahau

**Description:** The sun god or sun faced lord, travels across the sky during the day. But at night, he becomes the fearful Jaguar god and enters the Underworld.



## Name: Ah Puch

**Description:** The god of death, the most gruesome god as he has a skeletal nose, jaw and spine and his body is covered with hideous spots.