

# DID THE SPANISH DESTROY MAYAN CULTURE?

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# SPANISH CONQUEST

## Fun facts

- The Spanish tried to make the Mayas believe in a different religion.
- They destroyed their temples and cities
- They killed and slaughtered lots of Mayans who didn't follow what they said.

The Spanish conquest destroyed aspects of the Mayan culture - this means the Mayans lost some of their history. When the Spanish invaded they destroyed as many of the codices as they could. Only three codices remain they are:

The Dresden codex

The Madrid codex

The Paris codex.

## Conclusion

I believe that the Spanish destroyed some of the Mayans culture because we would know more about the Mayans and their history and artefacts if the Spanish hadn't invaded and destroyed their codices and we would know about their traditions.

However, some Mayan artefacts still remain all over of central America and countries of Mexico, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Nicaragua .

# RELIGION.

The Spanish forced the Mayans to change their religion to Christianity as they believed worshipping many gods was the symbol of the devil. Many Mayans who did not agree to follow this would get executed, tortured or sent to dungeon as a punishment.

## Conclusion:

I think that the Spanish conquest destroyed some Mayan philosophy, such as their religious beliefs because traditionally they believed in these gods: Hunab Ku, Kinich Ahau, Ix Chel, Chaac, **Kukulkan, Maize God**. However, currently most Mayan people now follow Christianity and do not practice the traditional worship and rituals of blood letting and sacrifice to multiple God's.

# TRIBES THAT LIVE IN THE RAIN FOREST – MODERN DAY MAYAN TRIBES.

Traditionally, Mayans built huge cities and temples in the rainforest and farmed and hunted to survive. They spoke their own language which was made of up of pictures and symbols (glyphs, logograms and sylobograms.) However, when the Spanish invaded they destroyed their huge cities and temples, many Mayans were forced to obey to the Spanish ways of life.

## Conclusion

I believe that only some of the Mayan culture was destroyed when the Spanish invaded because there is clear evidence that shows that some Mayan tribes still live in the rainforest and follow the traditional Mayan ways of life. They still farm and hunt and speak the Mayan language. However, this amount of Mayan tribes are small compared to what they used to be which shows that the Spanish did decrease the amount of people who practice traditional Mayan ways of life.

## Fun facts

Did you know the Mayans made chocolate out of cocoa beans. They were also the first civilisation to use zero as a place value holder.

# MODERN MAYA.

Throughout the Spanish Conquest, Mayan cities, farms and temples were destroyed. This meant that Mayans started to live differently to their traditional ways, alongside their Spanish invaders. A lot of artefacts were burned during this battle and some Mayans began to use less traditional Mayan ways such as, speaking and writing their language, farming and beliefs and adopted a European way of life.

## Conclusion:

There are 1.2m– 6 million people who follow the Mayan philosophy and speak Mayan. Today and some Mayan tribes still live in the rainforest and practice traditional Mayan culture so the conquest did not destroy Mayan culture completely. However, even though many Mayan speak Spanish these days and follow a European way of life – I don't believe that Mayan culture has been completely destroyed as some of their traditional ways still exist today.