

The Mayan Gods

The Maya had many gods (over 150!); however, only a few are mentioned by the same name in different sources. Some had human form, some took the form of an animal, and others were a natural phenomenon. Here are two gods the Mayan people worshipped.

Itzamnaaj

- He was the inventor of writing and the patron of learning.
- He was portrayed in human form as an old man with no teeth and a large nose.
- The Maya believed he was one of the creator gods.



Kukulcan

- He was the supreme god.
- He was one of the creator gods.
- He was also the god of resurrection and reincarnation.
- His name means feathered serpent.
- He was the god of the four elements with the following items associated with each one:
 - maize-ear (earth)
 - lizard (fire)
 - a fish (water)
 - vulture (air)



Quick Questions



1. What does Kukulcan mean?



2. Find two words with a similar meaning to **designer**.



3. Why has the word **phenomenon** been used to describe the gods?



4. Summarize the information provided in 30 words or less.

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Quick Questions



1. What does Kukulcan mean?
Accept: Kukulcan means feathered serpent.



2. Find two words with a similar meaning to **designer**.
inventor, creator



3. Why has the word **phenomenon** been used to describe the gods?
The word phenomenon is used to describe something remarkable such as the gods.



4. Summarize the information provided in 30 words or less.
Answers will vary. Possible answer: The Maya had over 150 gods. Itzamnaaj was an inventor and creator god. Kukulcan was the supreme god. He was the god of resurrection, reincarnation, and the four elements.