

## 8. CITIES

All Mayan cities were built in the same way. They had a large central plaza surrounded by temples, pyramids, a palace and a ball court. The plaza was used as a market and a gathering place for ceremonies and festivals.

Famous Mayan cities include Tikal, Palenque and Chichen Itza.



*Remains of the ancient Mayan city of Palenque in Mexico*

## Pyramids

The Mayans built pyramids as tombs for members of the ruling family. The pyramids were also used for religious ceremonies. Some had steps leading to a temple at the top; others were not meant to be climbed.

### HISTORY HIGHLIGHT!

The tallest pyramids were up to 60 metres high and could be used as landmarks in the rainforest.



*The top of this pyramid temple in Tikal stands out above the treetops.*