

# The Ancient Maya



# Where?

Maya civilisation developed in a territory the size of Germany and Denmark together (nearly 400,000 km<sup>2</sup>).

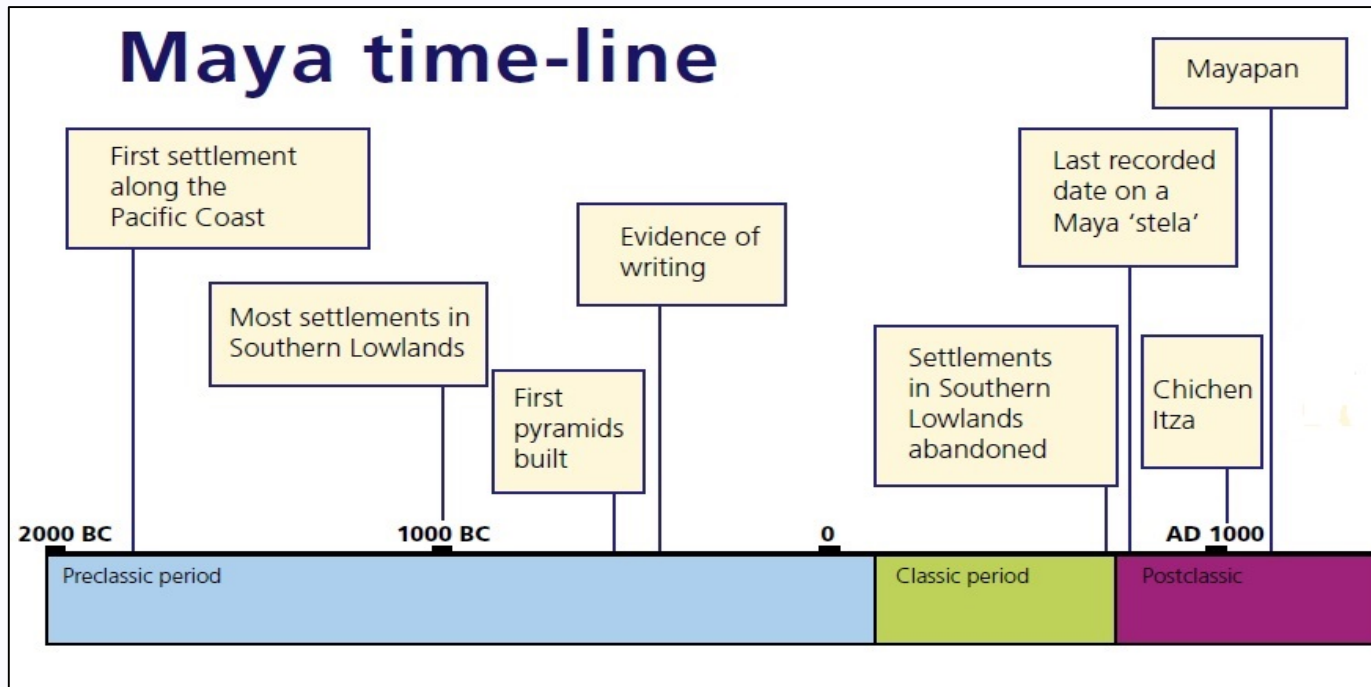


# Where?

This vast territory can be split into three regions: the Northern Lowlands, which covers the Yucatán peninsula of Mexico; the Southern Lowlands, which includes Belize, the Guatemalan Petén region and parts of Chiapas; and the Southern Highlands, which refers to the Guatemalan mountainous region.



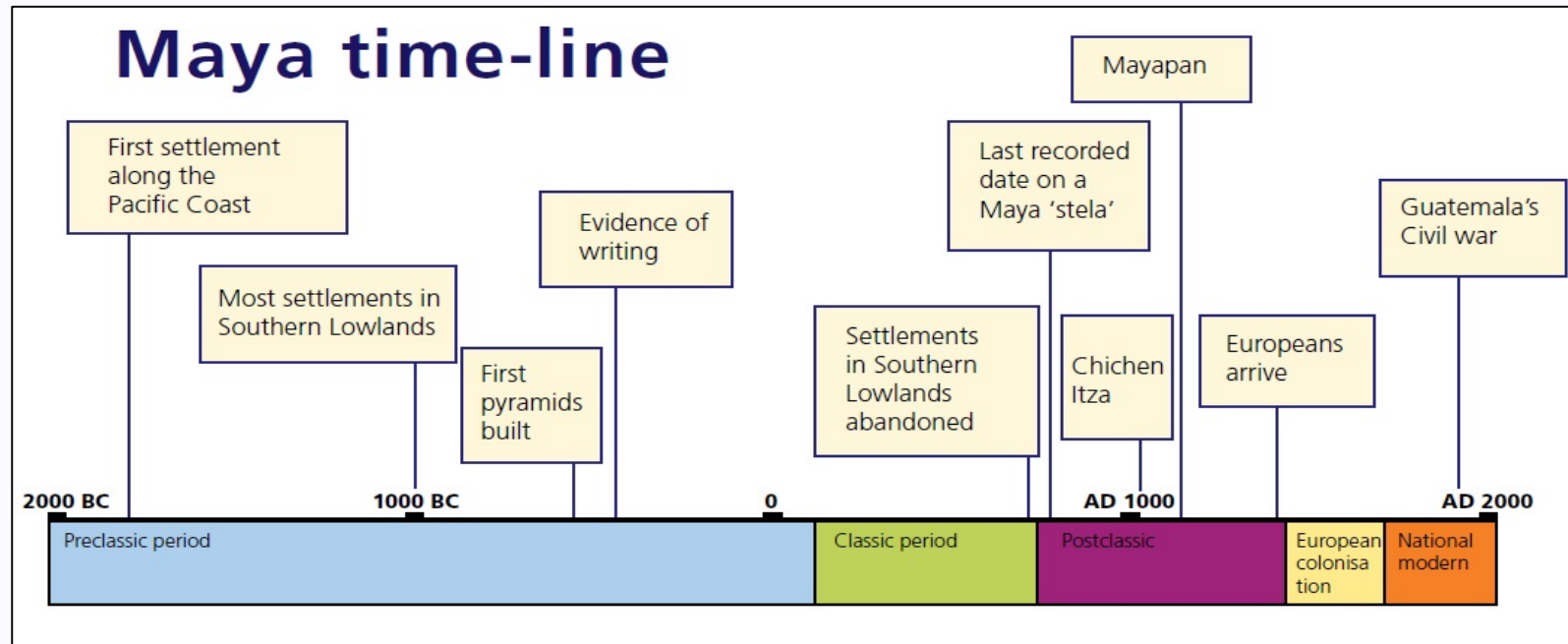
# When?



Scholars usually recognise three major periods in the history of Maya civilisation:

- The Preclassic (2000 BCE – CE 300)
- The Classic (CE 300-900)
- the Postclassic (CE 900-1550)

# When?



But this only covers the period before the Europeans arrived, implying that the Maya became extinct after this.

The Maya have continued to develop and adapt through the historic periods of European Colonisation (1550-1821), and the National Modern (1821 to date).

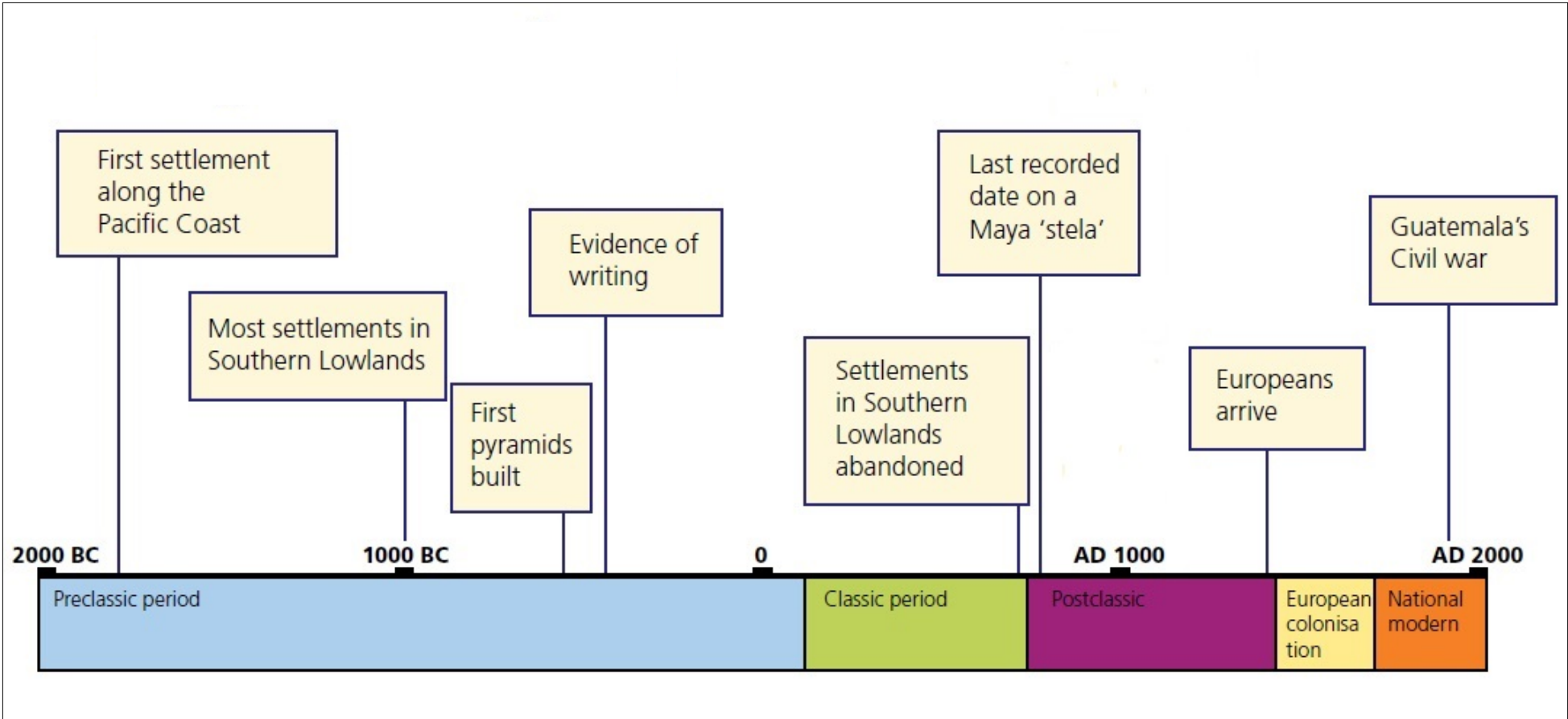
# Achievements of the Ancient Maya

The Ancient Maya invented their own systems of writing, numbers and a calendar.

They also farmed and traded, but didn't have any metal tools, only stone. With these they built huge cities and pyramids.

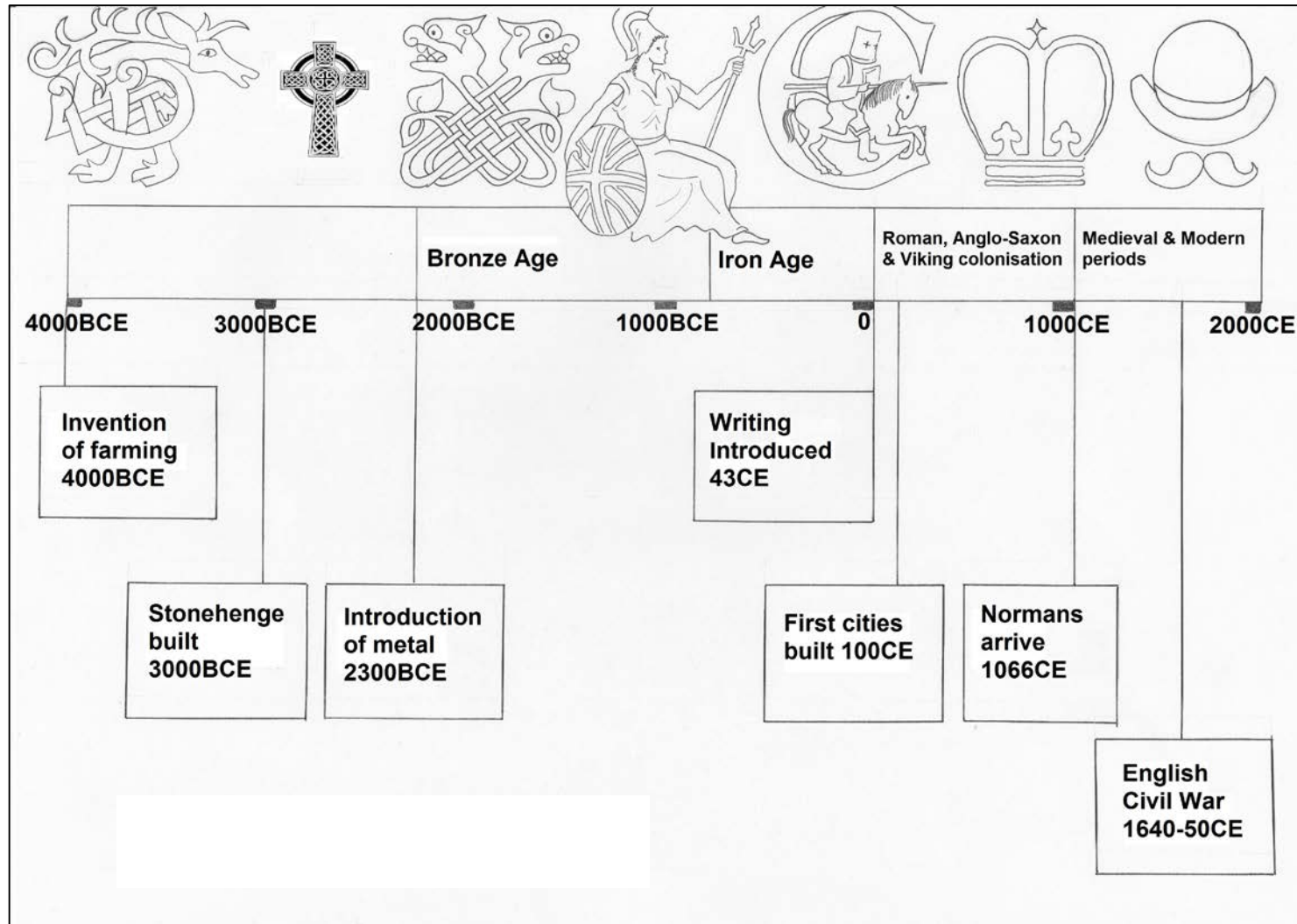


# The Maya timeline

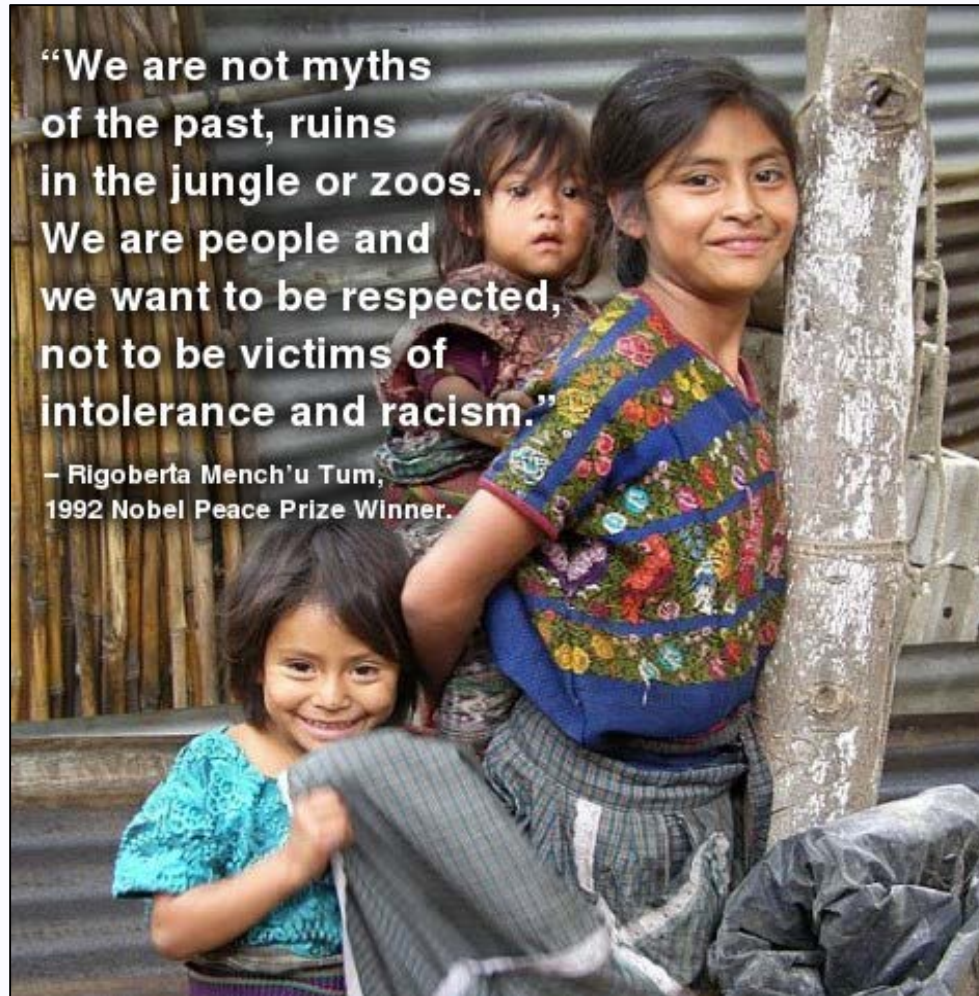


BC = BCE  
AD = CE

# The British timeline



# The Modern Maya



When the Spanish invaded in 1517, the Maya kingdoms were already in decline.

But the Maya were not all killed or conquered.



*Page from the 16th-century Lienzo de Tlaxcala (reproduction from 1892) showing the Spanish conquest of Tecpan Atitlan (Santiago Atitlán, in Guatemala).*

There are more than 6 million Maya living today in Guatemala, Mexico and Belize.



The Maya people have continued to hold on to their unique way of life.

They still worship the old gods as well as Christianity, they farm in the same way and weave clothing in a similar way.

