

The Maya Gods

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

46 Itzamnaaj

56 • He was the inventor of writing and the patron
58 of learning.

67 • He was portrayed in human form as an old
75 man with no teeth and a large nose.

85 • The Maya believed he was one of the creator gods.



86 Kukulcan

91 • He was the supreme god.

98 • He was one of the creator gods.

106 • He was also the god of resurrection and
107 reincarnation.

112 • His name means feathered serpent.

121 • He was the god of the four elements with
127 the following items associated with each
129 one:

130 • maize-ear (earth) • lizard (fire)

132 • 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. Summarise the information provided in 30 words or less.
