

MOON WORSHIP

Ancient peoples were in awe of the Moon. For a start, it was mysteriously beautiful. It was obviously powerful too, as anyone living by the sea noticed: the highest tides coincided with the fullest Moon. The Moon's regular changes also gave pattern to life. Clearly, it was something to be worshipped.



📍 The Pyramid of the Moon, built for the worship of the Moon goddess Chalchiutlicue, in the pre-Aztec city of Teotihuacan.

STONEHENGE

The 5,000-year-old monument known as Stonehenge in England was perhaps a gigantic calculator. The circles and rectangles, marked with stones and ditches, allowed the priests to predict eclipses of the Sun and Moon over hundreds of years.

SACRIFICE

Worship means recognising in public that something or someone is tremendously powerful and needs to be kept on your side. How do you make the Moon god or goddess happy? The Egyptians did it by fashioning a statue of the god and offering it food every day. Other primitive religions had images of the Moon carved in stone or wood.

Ancient Hindu ritual involved offering sacrifices to the Moon – demonstrating how important it was by giving it the most precious things they possessed: food, an animal or even a human life. The Aztecs' ritual of cutting out human hearts was associated with sacrifice to the Moon goddess Coyolxauhqui.

