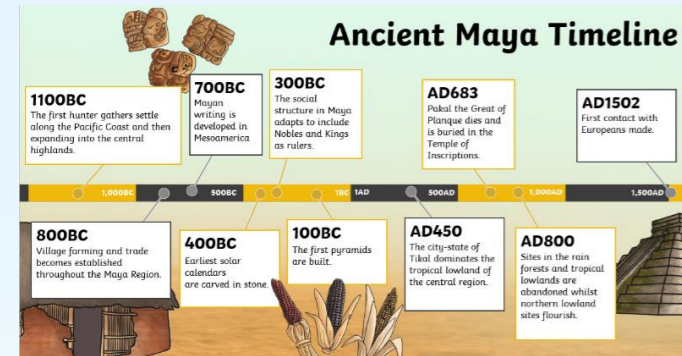


When was the Ancient Maya Civilisation?

It is believed that the Mayans began their civilisation around 2000BC in Mesoamerica. They had a dominant presence for more than 3000 years until explorers from Spain arrived in 1519AD. Historians divided Maya history into three periods: Pre-classic, classic and the late classic.



Where did the Ancient Maya Civilisation live?

They lived on the Yucatan Peninsula and their civilization expanded to the surrounding southern highlands. They eventually spread out from those locations to the northern section of El Salvador. The region was an area that had a large amount of volcanic activity, which made the soil very fertile for growing crops.

Researchers have found that periods of extreme rain, extreme drought and warming temperatures occurred during the time of the Maya civilisation.



Daily Life

Families lived in great cities like Yax Mutal and Palenque, and also in surrounding farmland. Adults work as farmers, warriors, hunters, builders, teachers and many other things. Children from noble families could learn maths, science, writing and astronomy, but poorer children were taught only their parents' jobs.



Mayan Gods

The Mayans worshipped different gods and goddesses, with these gods playing an important role in all aspects of life. The Mayans also conducted elaborate rituals including bloodletting and human sacrifice. There were eight main Mayan gods.

| Mayan Gods and Goddesses | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Itzamna | The creator god. One of the oldest and most important gods. |
| Chaac | The god of rain. A very important god for any culture with a strong agricultural base like the Maya! |
| Ix Chel | Mayan goddess of medicine and childbirth. She was the wife of Itzamna. |
| Kinich Ahau | Mayan god of the sun. He was often represented by a jaguar. |
| Ek Chuaj | Merchant of deity and god of cacao. He was also the god of war, chaos and destruction. |
| Kukulkan | The serpent god. He was one of the most famous Mayan gods and was often portrayed as a feathered serpent. |
| Ah Puch and God L | Gods of the underworld. Ah Puch was the god of death. God L appears to be related to the night and the underworld. Nobody knows what his name is. |

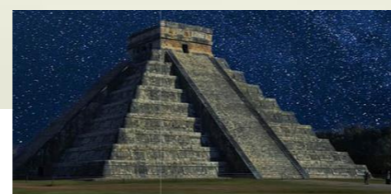
Mayan Hieroglyphics

The ancient Maya hieroglyphic writing system consisted of a series of signs and symbols called glyphs. Although most Maya people would be able to read and write some glyphs, it was only the priests and noblemen who would know the whole written language. Some glyphs in Maya hieroglyphic writing are called logograms and represent a whole word. Other glyphs are called syllabograms and represent a unit of sound - a little bit like a phoneme! There are over 800 glyphs in the entire Maya hieroglyphic system.

The Mayans also built intricate calendar systems, including the famous Long Count Calendar!



The Mayans were excellent builders. Today, they are best known for their tall pyramids with stepped-up sides that extended high above the jungle trees. The limestone quarries in the area provided all the stone they needed.



Mayan Artefacts

Artefacts are objects made from humans, often from an era long ago. Archaeologists have been excavating at Tikal in Guatemala for many decades. At one time it was one of the oldest of the Maya settlements. Thousands of artefacts and architectural wonders have been discovered including ornate temples, step pyramids, and courts where ball games were played. Monuments carved in stone, everyday tools, objects used during religious ceremonies and fragments of pottery have also been found. All of these buildings and artefacts give us a detailed understanding of the ancient Maya civilization.



Chocolate!

We have the ancient Maya of Mesoamerica to thank for chocolate! Although they Maya didn't eat chocolate bars as we know and love today, it all started during this time period with the cacao bean!

Astronomers

The Mayans were skilled astronomers and accurately predicted eclipses and planetary movements. They developed a calendar and recorded star movements so that they would know when to farm. Mayan astronomers and mathematicians made calculations about events like eclipses and were some of the first to identify zero as a number!



Mayan Cities

Mayan cities were organised around central plazas with temples and ball courts. They had had many important buildings, palaces and temples. Pyramid-shaped temples had a shrine at the top, with the staircase on each side of the pyramid leading to this. Each city also had its own king and a pok a tok court. If you were a noble or a king, you lived inside the city in large palaces made from stone. Mayan farmers lived in huts outside the city near their farms. The huts were usually made from mud, but were sometimes made from stone. They were single room homes with thatched roofs.

Recall and Remember Quiz!

Children should continue to add to their knowledge mind maps regularly throughout the teaching of this unit.

1. What type of civilization were the Mayans?
2. The Maya civilization emerged in which present-day region?
3. How did the Maya keep track of time?
4. Which of the following is a famous Mayan city?
5. What is a cenote?
6. The Mayans were skilled in which form of writing?
7. Which of the following was NOT a Mayan religious practice?
8. The Maya civilization declined primarily due to:
9. The Mayans were highly skilled in:
10. The Mayans made significant contributions to:

Ancient Maya - Year 6

What you have learnt already in year 5:

Chronological understanding:

I have learnt to have a secure knowledge of chronology and are mostly accurate in placing a range of historical events from around the world on a timeline.

I have learnt to draw my own timeline, generally producing accurate intervals and adding to it as I learn about new periods of history.

I have learnt to compare historical periods, identifying similarities between them.

I have learnt to identify trends over time.

Vocabulary:

I have learnt to remember and use names and words from the areas I have studied in Year 5 as well as remembering some names and words from previous study.

I have learnt to use words and phrases to indicate time, talking about decades, centuries, millennium etc.

I have learnt to understand some words related to history in general, as well as periods of history e.g. empire, parliament, civilisation etc.

Questioning:

I have learnt to question to develop my understanding and also ask questions about what people have said.

I have learnt to challenge sources of information.

I have learnt to make purposeful selections about information I wish to include in responses.

I have learnt to organise information purposefully when responding to or asking questions.

Knowledge:

I have learnt to remember key facts and information from areas of study in Year 5 and can remember information from previous areas of study.

I have learnt to build my understanding of how our knowledge of history is developed, identifying how a range of sources build up my knowledge and understanding.

I have learnt to access different sources, including using books, the internet, film clips and direct sources such as letters, diaries etc.

Skills and knowledge I may use from other subjects:

Geography: I will be able to use my map skills to locate and identify Mexico and other areas on a map, including naming the continent and describing the physical properties of the country.

Maths: To help me work out how long-ago events happened and order them.

Literacy: I can use my reading and comprehension skills to further my knowledge of ancient civilisations.

Art: to create a piece of replica art or artefacts from ancient Maya.

RE: Use my knowledge of religion to compare beliefs and contrast those to my own.

D&T: I can use my knowledge of food to compare food and cooking style from Ancient Maya to now. I can use pottery and clay skills to create artefact replicas.

Music: To take part in improvised performances using replica musical instruments.

What you will learn by the end of this unit:

I will learn about the chronology on ancient Maya and place it on a world timeline.

I will be able to identify the area in which the Mayan Civilisation lived on a map and describe its climate. I will learn about the different time periods of the Mayan civilization

I will learn in detail about what daily life was like in the Mayan Civilisation.

I will understand in detail what was important to the Mayans and how they lived.

I will learn in some about Mayan Gods and Goddesses, what they looked like and the responsibilities they had.

I will learn in detail about some Mayan artefacts.

I will learn in detail about what Mayan cities were like including some of the architectural features.

I will learn in detail about Mayan writing system.

Key Skills:

Evaluate and create: I will be able to evaluate what I have learnt about different ancient civilisations and use these to create pieces of work that are well thought out and balanced.

Outline ideas/practices - I will outline ideas and practices of different ancient civilisations in a range of different ways and methods.

Link different viewpoints - I will be able to use my ever-growing knowledge of historical periods to link different viewpoints to the different ancient civilisations and how they have influenced later periods of time.

Explain - I will be able to confidently and clearly explain my ideas, what I have learnt and my views of ancient Maya

Recognise impact - I will use the knowledge I have gained to recognise the impact ancient Egypt has had on many different factors of society today.

Express own ideas - I will express my own ideas thoughtfully and respectfully when talking about different subjects surrounding ancient Maya.

Apply ideas thoughtfully - I will be able to express my own ideas thoughtfully into group discussions and expand when needed to further my own and others learning.

Key Historical Concepts:

- Chronology Empire
- Civilisation
- Wider World History
- Continuity and Change
- Cause and Consequence
- Similarity/difference/significance
- Local history
- Culture
- Economy
- Governance
- Vocabulary

What you will learn by the end of this Key stage:

By the end of this key stage, you will have a secure understanding of the ancient Mayan civilisation. You will know when they lived and understand that the Mayan civilization was split into three time periods. You will be able to describe in detail where they lived and what daily life was like. You will be able to identify various artefacts, describe their importance and why they are significant. You will be able to explain in detail about how the Mayans lived and what their skills and jobs were. You will have a good understanding about what was important to them. You will be able to explain what Mayan cities were like as well as some of the architectural features. You will be able to recognise Mayan Gods and Goddesses and explain their roles and responsibilities. You will understand who and how the Mayans worshipped. You will learn about the Mayan writing system and what a syllabogram and logogram are.

Opportunities for teaching diversity, equality and expanding cultural capital:

- Encourage students to appreciate the diversity of cultures and understand that the Mayan civilization was just one of the many fascinating civilizations that existed.
- Introduce key vocabulary related to diversity and equality
- Provide opportunities for children to explore and celebrate different cultural practises within the Mayan civilization such as their unique calendar system or ball games
- Promote empathetic understanding by discussing the impact of the colonization on Mayan culture and the importance of preserving indigenous cultures today

Key Vocabulary:

Agriculture - the practice of cultivating land and the rearing of animals for food, fibre, medicinal plants, and other products used to sustain life.

Ancient - relating to times a very long time ago

Architecture - the act or process of designing buildings, or the profession of an architect

Artefacts - an object made by human beings, often from an earlier era

Astronomy - The study of celestial objects, such as planets and stars.

Beliefs - A strong opinion; something that is believed to be true

Calendar - a system for dividing and measuring time.

Chronological - to put events into the order in which it happened

City-state - An independent city that governs itself and its surrounding territory.

Civilisation - the culture of a particular society that has reached an advanced level

Cacao - the bean-like seeds used to make chocolate

Hieroglyphics - A system of writing that consists of pictures and symbols instead of letters

Logogram - a symbol or sign used to represent an entire spoken word

Mayan - relating to the people, culture, or language of the ancient Mayan civilization.

Mesoamerica - A region in Central America where the Mayan civilization emerged.

Ritual - a set form for going through the steps of a religious ceremony

Sacrifice - the act of offering something valuable (like an animal) to a deity as part of a religious ritual.

Stela - A tall stone monument with carvings or inscriptions.

Syllabogram - a symbol or sign used to represent a sound

Tikal - one of the largest Mayan cities, known for its impressive pyramids and temples. Tikal was a major political, economic, and cultural center of the Mayan civilization.

Temple - a sacred building used for religious worship.