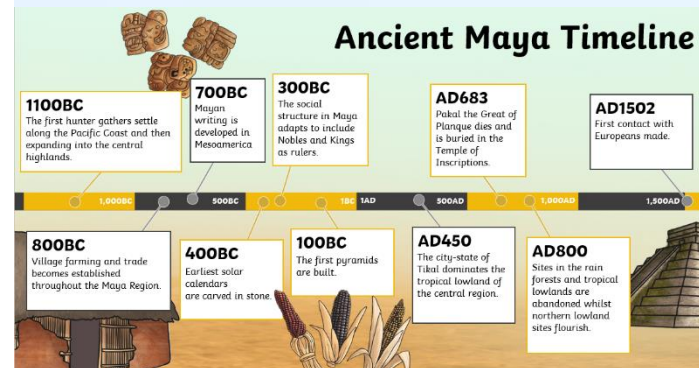


When was the Ancient Mayan Civilisation?

The Ancient Mayan period began around 1500 B.C.E and ended around 900 AD, meaning it lasted for approximately 2400 years.



Where did the Ancient Mayan Civilisation live?

The Maya occupied much of the north western part of Central America, from Chiapas and Yucatan, now part of southern Mexico, through to Guatemala, Honduras and Belize. Maya people still live in the same region today.



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 Mayan hieroglyphic system.

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



Mayan Artefacts

Artefacts are objects made from humans, often from an era long ago. They are often found in the ground by archaeologists and tell us lots about how people used to live. Historians use artefacts like a detective uses evidence to work out what happened.

There are lots of artefacts from ancient Maya such as a spouted jar, deity figure, carved bowl and a mirror-bearer.



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!

Statement	True or False
The Maya civilization was located in South America.	
The Mayans were excellent astronomers.	
The Mayans had a written language.	
The Mayans were known for inventing the wheel.	
The Mayans built temples and pyramids.	
The Mayans believed in many gods and worshipped in temples.	
The Mayans were skilled farmers, growing crops like corn and beans.	
The Mayans had a social hierarchy with priests and rulers at the top.	
The Mayans used a complex calendar system.	
The Mayans developed a counting system using the number zero.	
The Mayans played a ball game called 'pitz'.	
The Mayans had little knowledge of mathematics.	

Children should continue to add to their knowledge mind maps regularly throughout the teaching of this unit to ensure knowledge is being revisited and remembered.

Ancient Maya - Year 4

What you have learnt already in year 3:

Chronological understanding:

I have learnt to develop my knowledge of chronology and can place periods of history I have learnt about accurately on a timeline.

I have learnt to confidently make links between areas of history I have studied in Year 3 and previously, as well as identifying similarities between them.

Vocabulary:

I have learnt to use a range of names and words from the areas I have studied in Year 3 as well as remembering a few names and words from previous study.

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

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

Questioning:

I have learnt to ask more in-depth questions for my age to develop my understanding.

I have learnt to answer questions accurately related to the area of study and used sources to justify my answers.

Knowledge:

I have learnt to remember a range of key facts and information from areas of study in Year 3.

I have learnt to identify at least two ways we gather information.

I have learnt to use at least one type of source of information confidently

Skills and knowledge I may use from other subjects:

Geography: I will be able to use my map skills to locate and identify countries 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 where on the world timeline the ancient Mayan period is.

I will be able to identify the area in which the Mayan Civilisation lived on a map.

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

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

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

I will learn in some detail about some Mayan artefacts.

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

I will learn in some detail about Mayan writing system.

Key Skills:

Apply and analyse - I will apply what I know about different ancient civilisations to what I know now and analyse these in ways which further my learning.

Describe - I will learn to use historical terminology to describe what life was like in Ancient Maya

Connect ideas - I will connect ideas about life in ancient Maya and their beliefs.

Consider - I will consider what happened during this time period and how it has shaped the future. I will consider similarities and differences between then and now.

Question - I will question ideas and concepts that I am not sure of to gain further understanding of ancient Maya.

Discuss/ideas/points of view - I will further my learning by discussing subjects in peer groups, seeing other's points of view and challenging my own.

Respond thoughtfully - I will learn to respond thoughtfully to questions and subjects using what I have learnt so far

Key Historical Concepts:

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

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

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

Temple - a sacred building used for religious worship.