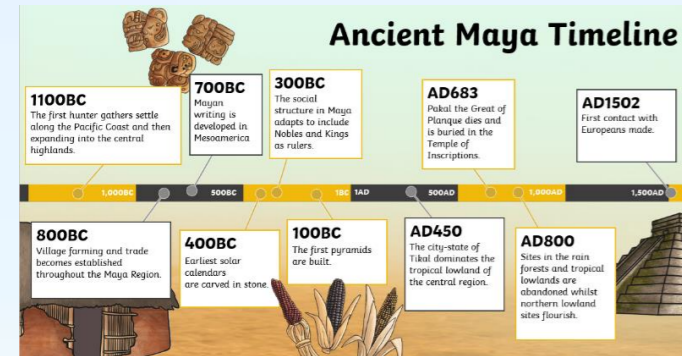


When was the Ancient Mayan Civilisation?

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.



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.

Where did the Ancient Mayan 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 Mayan 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 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. Archaeologists have been excavating at Tikal in Guatemala for many decades. At one time, it was one of the oldest of the Mayan 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 Mayan 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 to ensure knowledge is being revisited and remembered.

Statement	True or False
The ancient Mayans were the first civilization in the Americas.	
The Mayan civilization existed in what is now modern-day Mexico and Central America.	
The Mayans were skilled astronomers and mathematicians.	
The Mayan writing system consisted of hieroglyphs.	
The Mayans believed in a single god called Kukulkan.	
The Mayans built impressive stone pyramids and temples.	
Human sacrifices were an important part of Mayan religious rituals.	
The Mayans had a rigid social hierarchy, with nobles at the top.	
The Mayans had a complex calendar system that is still used today.	
The Mayans had a strong military and often engaged in warfare.	
The Mayans were successful traders, reaching as far as South America.	
The decline of the Mayan civilization remains a mystery.	

Ancient Maya - Year 5

What you have learnt already in year 4:

Chronological understanding:

I have learnt to become more secure in 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, identifying differences and similarities between them

Vocabulary:

I have learnt to remember and use a range of names and words from the areas I have studied in Year 4 as well as remembering some names and words from previous study.

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

I have learnt to understand 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 questions to develop my understanding.

I have learnt to challenge sources of information.

I have learnt to organise some information that is purposeful for responding to or asking questions.

Knowledge:

I have learnt to remember a range of key facts and information from areas of study in Year 4 and can remember a few facts from previous areas of study.

I have learnt to understand how our knowledge of history is developed through a range of sources.

I have learnt to use at least one type of source of information confidently and begin to use at least two different types of sources e.g. books, internet, visual clips

Skills and knowledge I may use from other subjects:

Geography: I will be able to use my map skills to locate and identify countries in which the Mayans lived 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 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 Egypt and use this to help me in my work (both written and verbal).

Connect ideas - I will connect ideas by making links in the impact certain periods of time have had to nowadays and how life has developed.

Describe - I will learn to use a range of historical terminology to describe different periods of history (including other ancient civilisations) and how they have impacted the world we know today.

Recognise impact - I will use what I have learnt to outline the impact ancient Egypt has had on modern Egypt.

Question/ideas/points of view - I will compare my own ideas, points of view and questions to those of my peers and think about how the range of answers will influence my view of ancient Egypt.

Respond thoughtfully - I will respond thoughtfully to questions and answers myself and peers have and use what I have learnt to further these.

Investigate - I will be able to use different methods to investigate different aspects of ancient Egypt.

Key Historical Concepts:

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

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

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.

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

Temple - a sacred building used for religious worship.