

Year
6

The Maya

Achievements
in the past and
their impacts
on our lives

Key learning

Locate the Maya within a historical and geographical context.

Know some of the main Maya inventions that have impacted on our lives.

Understand the religious beliefs of the Maya and compare with other civilisations.

Know about the Maya agricultural, trade and transport systems.

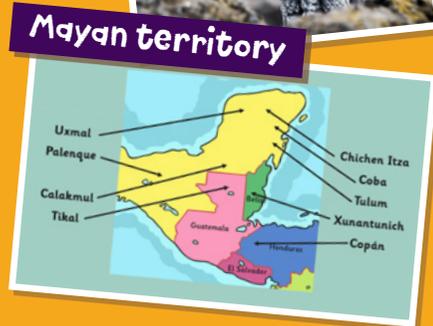
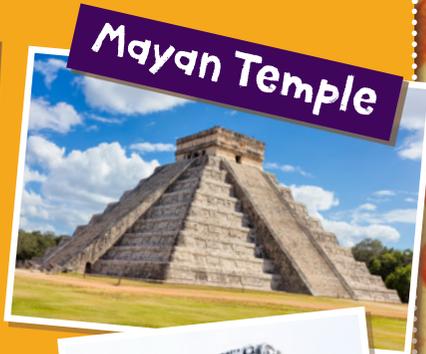
Understand the Maya civilisation and compare to our society today.

Describe the daily life of the Maya people.

Key Knowledge

The Maya civilisation was located in central America.

- Central America consists of seven countries: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.
- The Maya used their own number system, writing system and invented their own calendar which had 52 years!
- The Maya believed in lots of different gods such as: Kimi, Ix Chel, Itzamna, Maize god, Chac, K'inich Ahau.
- Many religious rituals were performed such as bloodletting, maize and cacao ceremonies.
- Maize and cacao were extremely important to the Maya.
- They also traded foods such as honey, squash, beans, turkey, chilli peppers and deer.
- Primary sources of evidence come directly from the time, secondary sources are created after the event.
- John Lloyd Stephens and Frederick Catherwood are credited with reigniting interest in the Mayan civilisation.



Key Vocabulary

Civilisation - the stage of social and cultural development and organization that is considered most advanced

Mesoamerica - a historical region and cultural area in North America

Vigesimal - number system based on the number 20

Hieroglyphs - a picture of an object representing a word, syllable, or sound

Syllabogram - are signs used to write the syllables of words

Codex - an ancient manuscript text in book form

Sacrifice - an act of slaughtering an animal or person or surrendering a possession as an offering to a deity

Bloodletting - the surgical removal of some of a patient's blood for therapeutic purposes

Ritual - a religious or solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a prescribed order
Xibalba, roughly translated as "place of fright", is the name of the underworld in Maya mythology

Upperworld - the land where people live

Agriculture - is the art and science of cultivating the soil, growing crops and raising livestock

Key Dates

- The Maya civilisation came into being around 2000 BC and cities such as El Mirador became large and powerful from 300 BC onwards.
- By around AD 900, cities in the rainforest were abandoned and people moved up north to the highlands of Guatemala and the Yucatan. This was because there was an extensive drought in the area that lasted a long time and people needed to move out of the rainforest.
- Cities like Chichen Itza were still thriving in AD 1000 and the Maya civilisation was still in existence in AD 1500.
- It was due to the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century that their ancient cities fell to ruin.