

Links to prior learning – Ancient civilisations Egypt and Rome

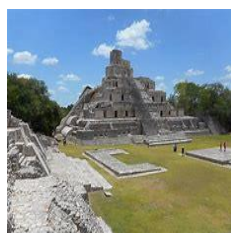
Year 4 – The Maya

Links to other subjects – English, the writing system Maths

Key concepts in history which run through all topics: parliament, civilisation, empire, peasantry

Subject Specific Vocabulary	
civilisation	Societies achieve an advanced stage of development and organisation.
empire	A group of nations, states or peoples ruled over by an emperor, empress or other powerful sovereign.
legacy	Something that happens or exists as a result of things that happened at an earlier time.
Chichen Itza	A ruined ancient Maya city and literally means ‘at the mouth of the well of Itza’.
city state	A city and the area around it with an independent government.
hieroglyphs	Symbols used in the Mayan writing system with each symbol representing a word or sound.
codex/codices	A book specific to the Maya; they were made of soft bark and folded like a fan.
cacao	seeds used to make chocolate
sacrifice	The sacrifice of a human or animal was performed to appease the gods.

Key people, facts and sticky knowledge
The earliest Maya settlements in central Mexico date to around 1800BC. They were agricultural , growing crops such as corn (maize), beans, squash and cassava.
Mayan society was formed of a number of city states each with their own ruler: El Mirador, Tikal and Chichen Itza for example. These cities were designed in a similar pattern: palace, plaza and pyramids.
The Maya were the only civilisation in the Americas, and only one of five cultures in the world to develop a fully-fledged writing system .
The Maya were expert mathematicians and astronomers . They used this expertise to make calendars.
The Maya worshipped many gods and performed ceremonies to keep them happy. Mayan gods could change themselves into human and animal shapes
By the end of this period of learning , pupils should be able to describe aspects of the Mayan era drawing on their knowledge of civilisation and their way of life. They will know what caused the decline of the Maya.



Mayan artefacts:



Historical Timeline

Bronze Age (2500BC – 800BC) Ancient Egypt (3100BC – 332BC) Stone Age (8700BC – 2000BC)	Bronze Age (2500BC – 800BC) Ancient Greece (2900BC – 336BC) Ancient Egypt (3100BC – 332BC)	Roman Britain (27BC – 476AD) Celts (275BC – 43AD) Iron Age (800BC – 332BC) Mayans (1800BC – 250AD) Ancient Greece (2900BC – 336BC) Ancient Egypt (3100BC – 332BC)	0AD	Mayans (1800BC – 250AD) Vikings (700 -1100AD) Anglo Saxons (410 – 793AD) Roman Britain (27BC – 476AD)	Moon landing 1969 WW2 (1939 – 1945) WW1 (1914 – 1918) The Victorians (1837 – 1903) Industrial Revolution Tudors (1485 – 1603) Great Fire of London 1666
3000BC	2000BC	1000BC		1000 AD	2000 AD

