

HOLY SOULS RC PRIMARY SCHOOL - Knowledge Organiser



History

Year 4

Strand: MAYA Civilisation

What should I already know?

The Maya civilisation happened before I was born.

Maya is an ancient civilisation.

The Maya civilisation was not in the country I live in.

Diagrams



Important facts:

The Maya were a civilisation who lived in Mesoamerica (now Central America) between approximately 2000 BCE and 900CE. They are known for being the first Mesoamericans to develop writing. They also had a sophisticated culture in which they lived in city states. They built spectacular monuments and stepped pyramids - some (e.g. Chichen Itza) have become world tourist destinations in the modern day. They were also well-known for their advanced maths and calendars. Around 900CE, Maya cities became abandoned. No one knows for sure why this happened.

5 Interesting facts:

1. The Mayans believed in three realms - heaven, earth and the underworld.
2. The Ancient Maya lived in an area called Mesoamerica.
3. At the site of Copan, on the stairway, there are 2,200 individual glyphs representing the major rulers of the Copan dynasty. It is the longest made Mayan hieroglyphic text.
4. Mayans sacrificed humans for religious and medical reasons. It was an honour to be sacrificed!
5. Ceremonial masks were used for many purposes but mainly funerals, to protect noblemen in the afterlife.

Vocabulary:

Artefact	An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.
Calendar	A printed table showing all the days, weeks and months of the year.
Civilisation	Human society which is organised.
Dynasty	A series of rulers or leaders who are all from the same family, or a period when a country is ruled by them.
Empire	A group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country.
Hieroglyphics	A system of writing using pictures not words.
Kingdom	A place ruled by a king, queen or important person.
Maize	Also known as corn, is a cereal grain.
Prediction	A statement about what you think will happen in the future.
Temple	A building used for the worship of a god or gods in some religions.
Tomb	A large stone structure or underground room where someone, especially an important person, is buried.
Worship	To have or show a strong feeling or respect and admiration for a God or Goddess.

Timeline

Timeline	1100 BC Hunter	1100 BC	700 BC Maya	100 BC The first	900 -1200 AD	250 AD	1000 AD Chichen	1502 AD First
	gatherers settle along the Pacific coast.	Settlements begin to appear.	writing is developed	Maya Pyramids are built.	El Castillo is built.	Beginning of the Classic Period.	Itza is the most powerful city.	contact with Europe.

Cultural Capital - (including focused text / WOW moment / visitors / trips / fieldwork)
Visitor to present a talk and show artefacts from Mexico.

Historical skills and enquiries
Can you place historical events and people from the past in chronological order?
Can you summarise the main events from a period of history, explaining the order of events and what happened?
Can you present to an audience the main features of certain historical events?