

Year 6 -Term 4 – History



Who were the Ancient Maya and what impact did they have?

Curriculum Key Question: Where have we come from?

Topic: Who were the Ancient Maya and what impact did they have?

What should I already know?

The importance of other ancient civilisations such as the Ancient Greeks, Egyptians and Romans.

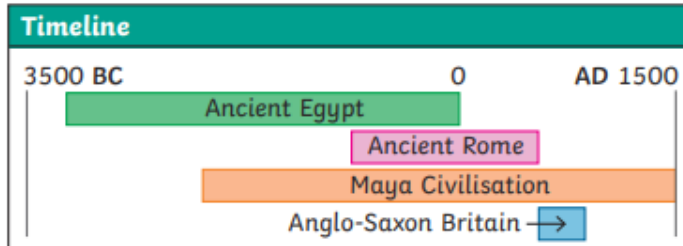
Evidence and artefacts from the past can be important to teach us about an ancient civilisation.

Historical skills:

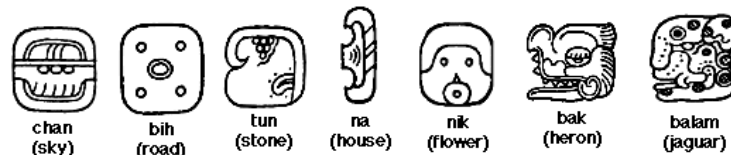
To explain similarities and differences in experiences and ideas, beliefs and attitudes of men, women and children in past Societies.

To discuss how and why different arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed

To give overviews as well as detailed accounts noting connections, contrasts and trends over time.



Some Mayan logograms



Numerals

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Key Events	
2000 BC	The Maya civilisation comes into being in Central America.
300 BC	Cities, such as El Mirador, become large and powerful.
AD 900	Cities in the rainforest are abandoned due to an extensive drought . People move north to the highlands of Guatemala and the Yucatán.
AD 1000	Cities like Chichén Itzá (which has two temple pyramids) are still thriving.
AD 1500s	The Spanish arrive in South America and set out to destroy the remaining elements of Maya civilisation as part of their conquest.
AD 1839	American explorer and writer, John Lloyd Stephens, and British artist, Frederick Catherwood explore Copán and extensively document what they find, reigniting interest in the Maya civilisation . They go on to document other Maya cities, including Chichén Itzá.
AD 2014	The cities of Lagunita and Tamchén are rediscovered.



Key Vocabulary

Civilisation: An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time.

Drought: A long period with very little rain.

Ritual: A ceremony, often religious, with set actions performed in a set order.

Jaguar: A big cat, heavier than a leopard, with yellowish fur and black spots.

Scribes: People paid to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write.

Codices: Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.

Maize: Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas.

Cacao beans: Cacao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When they are ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans, which can then be dried, roasted and ground.

Conquistadors: the Spanish who came to explore Central America.

Glyphs: the writing system that consisted of logograms and syllabograms.