

Topic: History Maya Civilisation

Phase: Lower KS2

Strand: A Non-European society

What should I already know?

- An awareness of the past, using common words and phrases relating to the passing of time.
- Identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods.
- The lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements.
- Events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally
- Significant historical events, people and places in their own locality.

At the end of the unit, I will be able to:

- Study a non-European society that provides contrasts with British history.
- Name and place dates of significant events of the period on a timeline and use words and phrases: century, decade, ancient civilisations, period and topic related vocabulary which denotes the period.
- Use evidence to describe houses and settlements, culture and the way of life, people's beliefs and attitudes and differences between rich and poor.
- Identify some ideas, beliefs and attitudes of past cultures giving reason for these differences.
- Understand the difference between primary and secondary sources.

Key Information

Maya—not Mayan! The language they spoke was Mayan but everything else was Maya!

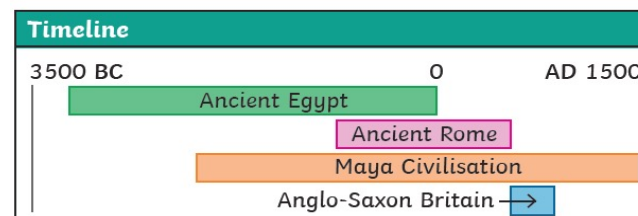
There were around 40 Maya cities built across Meso-America and each had its own ruler (ahau). These cities were mainly built in the rainforests and are still being discovered to this day!

The Maya invented their own writing system (hieroglyphs) and number system including the number 0, which civilisations like the Romans never even thought of!



The Maya were great astronomers and used this to invent their own calendars.

In Maya religion, they believed in many gods and built different temples to honour and worship the different gods. Sacrifice was also part of this worship! The Maya very much believed in human sacrifice to please the gods. Often, enemy warriors were sacrificed by being thrown in a cenote to drown or having their hearts cut out at the top of a temple!



We are MANOR! As Historians we will ...

Manners

Share ideas, celebrate good work, value others' contributions, or discussions and debates.

Aspiration

Learn about the significance of the Maya Civilisation and how their inventions and discoveries impact on our lives today. Develop our own aspiration by learning about achievements in the past.

Nurture

Recognise about mutual respect and how to acknowledge the feelings of others from the past. Learn how Mayas cared for others in their society.

Open-Mindedness

Learn about the world around us, the people, lifestyles, stories about the Maya Civilisation in the past, see the world through sources of evidence and become independent thinkers.

Resilience

Understand how to make connections with the past and challenge ourselves to be persistent and learn more through research investigations which stimulate and motivate us.

Did you know?

The history of chocolate can actually be traced back to the Maya. They would mix cacao with water, honey and chilli to make a spicy drink.

The ancient Maya never used coins as money. Instead, like many early civilizations, they were thought to mostly barter, trading items such as tobacco, maize, and clothing. Historical sources from the 16th century indicate that the Europeans even used cacao beans—the basis for chocolate to pay workers, but it was unclear whether the ‘chocolate’ was a prominent currency before the Maya Civilisation



No one is 100% sure why the civilisation came to an end. Common theories include drought and too much warfare between cities wiping each other out.

Find out more

www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zsdrqty

www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/mayans

Key Knowledge and vocabulary

Maya	The name given to the people of that time in Central America.
Mayan	The language spoken by the Maya people.
Maize	A grain that made up 80% of the Maya diet.
Hieroglyphs	Symbols or pictures used to represent words.
Vigesimal	Number system based on 20s used by the Maya people.
Artefact	An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.
Civilisation	Human society which is organised.
Temple	A building used for the worship of a god or gods in some religions.
Chichen Itza	One of the best-preserved examples of a Maya city.
Sacrifice	A slaughtering of an animal or human as an offering to please the gods.
Drought	A long period with very little rain.
Ritual	A ceremony, often religious, with set actions performed in a set order.
Codices	Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.
Cocoa 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.

Maya Civilisation quiz

1. What was the name of the language spoken by the Maya people?

2. Can you write the number 16 using the Maya system?

3. What does the ‘CHAN’ glyph symbolise?

4. What is a drought?

5. True or false: The Maya civilisation were around before Christ was born?