

Knowledge Organiser

Year 5 Maya Civilisation

Vocabulary
Civilisation
Drought
Rituals
Scribes
Codices
Maize
Cacao Beans

Websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw/articles/zqv6msg>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw/articles/zg2htv4>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw/articles/zs2ph39>

Remember, when you are online stay safe. Do not give your personal details to anyone and only go on recommended websites only.

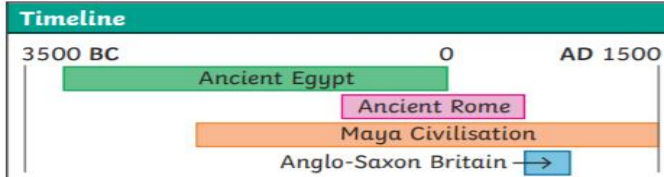


Writing

The Maya writing system, used to write several different Maya languages, was made up of over 800 symbols called glyphs. Some glyphs were logograms, representing a whole word, and some were syllabograms, representing units of sound. They were carved onto stone buildings and monuments and painted onto pottery. Maya scribes also wrote books, called codices, made from the bark of fig trees. Only priests and noblemen would know the whole written language.

The Extra Mile

- Research about the Maya writing system and write in their language.
- Write a recipe using Cacao beans
- Create a timeline of events
- Research Mayan art and create a piece of artwork
- Draw a map to show where in the world Mayans lived



Food

Maize was a very important crop that formed up to 80% of the Maya people's diets. They believed that the first humans were made from maize dough by the gods.

The Maya made a bitter chocolatey drink from cacao beans that was enjoyed by the rich and used for medicines and in ceremonies.

The beans were highly valued and even used as a form of money.



What do we need to know?

- Who were the Mayans?
- When did they live?
- Where did they live?
- What did they eat?
- Who did they worship?

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 Mayan 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.

Saltergate 500 Summer Term 2022:

- Students vs teachers games/quizzes
- Hold an exotic animal
- Food festival
- Make and visit a zoo

