

Year: 6



The Maya

Term: Spring 1

Key Questions:

- Why do we study the Maya in history?
- How did the Maya manage to become so important?
- What was everyday life in Mayan civilization?
- How can we know what was life like for the Mayan people 1,000 years ago?
- If the Maya were so civilized why then did they carry out human sacrifice?
- Why did the Mayan empire decline?

Enquiry Question: Who were the Mayans and what happened to them in AD900?

Key Facts:

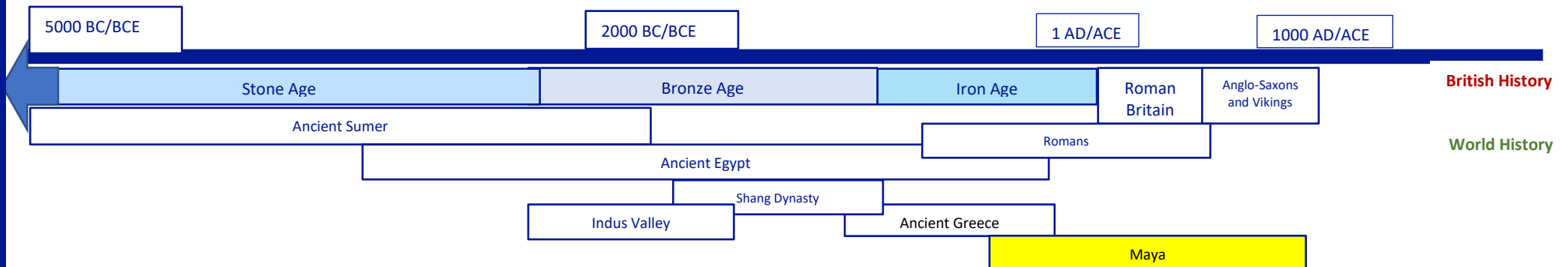
- In the year 1000 settlements like Chichen Itza were among the largest settlements anywhere in the world and Chichen Itza is probably the best preserved of any city in the world from this time.
- After about the year AD830 very little new construction took place at Chichen Itza. The last glyph with a date on comes from AD910. The reasons why the Mayan declined at that time (they weren't entirely wiped out) was probably due to drought and overworking of the soil.
- The Mayans farmed on land they terraced and made fertile. Their staple diet was maize and even worshiped maize as a god. They drank chocolate but not as we know it. It was unsweetened and spiced with chilli peppers. They even had a frother!
- They built pyramids with temples on top and even had an amazing astronomical observatory
- The Maya worshipped many gods and believed they needed offerings of blood.
- We know about the Maya from their writings in hieroglyphics, their advanced number system and the buildings such as the ball court that are still there today.

Key Vocabulary and Glossary:

Glossary:

Cenote	Sink hole formed by collapse of rock into which Maya threw offerings
Codex plural is codices	Collection of manuscript pages held together in early form of books
Glyph	Written symbol used to present spoken words
Jade	Green stone used to make wonderful jewels
Obsidian	Black glassy rock formed when volcanic lava cools
Quetzal	Colourful tropical bird very important to the Maya
Ritual	Act that is always performed in same way as part of a religious ceremony
Slash and Burn	Way of clearing farmland by slashing away most vegetation then burning the rest
Stelae	Upright stone slabs or pillars with inscriptions or design

2000 BC	500 BC	250 BC	650 AD	900 AD	1500 AD	1952 AD
Maya start to develop religious ideas	First Large Settlements	Pakal builds Palenque pyramids	Chichen Itza ball court	Tikal, Copan, Palenque abandoned	Spanish conquest	Tomb of Pakal is discovered inside of a pyramid



Spring 1 – Year 6 – Maya - Homework

CLASSES 6LM, 6AC, 6SB

Homework to be completed and returned by:
Friday 9th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the Spring term, we will be learning all about the Maya. Children will be learning all about the advancements and innovations of this amazing civilisation. Homework can be completed independently or with an adult.

Ancient Maya – Homework Tasks

You have a scrap book to use to complete your homework project. Over the next six weeks you may wish to complete some of these activities or make some up of your own.

Writing:

- Research the Maya Gods and Goddesses. Who were they? What did they represent?
- Write a rule book with diagrams to support your instructions on how to play the Mayan ball game 'Pok-a-Tok'.
- Create a fact file based around one of these topics: Mayan gods and religious beliefs, Mayan food and farming, Mayan music or Mayan calendars

Art/DT

- Build your own Mayan temple using materials you have at home.
- The Mayan's loved chocolate! Can you find out about how chocolate is made? Maybe you could even create your own chocolate bar.
- Learn how to play the Maya game of Pok a Tok. Can you create your own set of instructions on how to play this?
- Create a Mayan board game.
- The Maya loved the idea of simple repeating patterns. Can you create your own?
- Design and create a Mayan mask or headdress.



Maya learning links:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/za6svcw>

<https://www.mayaarchaeologist.co.uk/school-resources/maya-world/maya-timeline/>

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/mayans/>



Places to Visit:

The British Museum: Great Russell St, London WC1B 3DG

Reading

Remember to read each day and get an adult to sign your reading record. Don't forget to collect your rewards for reading!



Spelling

Don't forget spelling rules for your Spelling words will go home with you Friday for your quiz the following week!



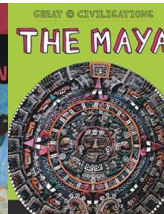
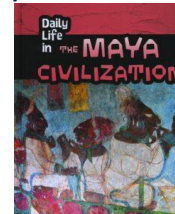
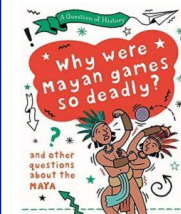
Maths

Please complete the given question in your SATS revision guides each week.

And please don't forget to log onto [Times Table Rock Stars](#)



Recommended Reads: Learn about the Maya



Maya Historical Fiction:

