

Year: 6



The Maya

Term: Spring 2

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 Maya and what happened to them in AD900?

Key Facts:

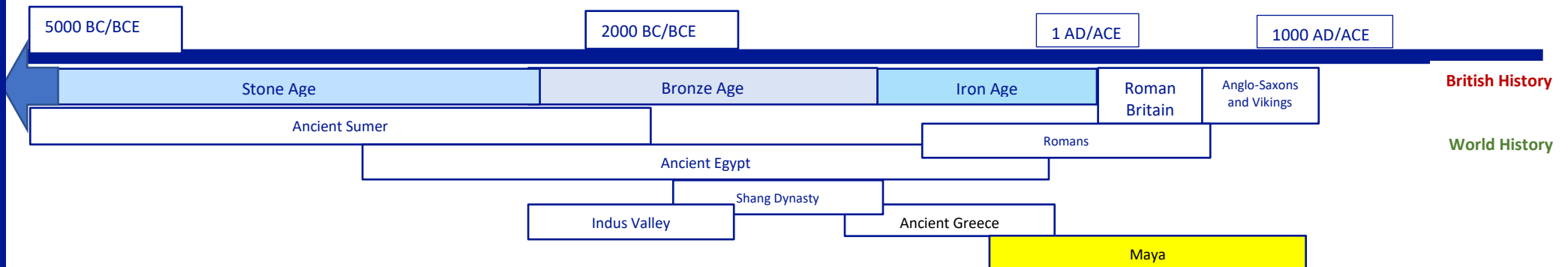
- The Maya were an **ancient civilisation** of people who lived in an area that used to be known as **Mesoamerica**. People had lived in the area **from around 5000 BC**, but it wasn't until **around 300 BC** that the **first cities started to grow**.
- Mesoamerica is now known as the modern day countries of northern **Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Belize, and central to southern Mexico**.
- Between about 300 and 900 A.D., known as their **Classic Period**, the Maya were responsible for a number of remarkable scientific achievements—in astronomy, agriculture, engineering and communications.
- Mayan society was organised into city states. Each city has its own king who had complete control over his subjects.
- City states would often trade with each other but would also go to war frequently to try and gain power, wealth and glory for their city state.
- Mayan society was structured a bit like a pyramid. The higher up the pyramid you were, the more important you were King, nobles and priests, palace official, craftsmen, farmers, labourers and slaves.
- Maya society was centred around their religious beliefs. They worshipped a number of gods and human sacrifices were made to both honour them and keep them happy.
- Despite the Maya's remarkable scientific achievements, their cities began to decline round the 10th century AD.
- The **cause of the decline** is still discussed today. Some believe it was because of their **wars**, while others believe it was the **loss of their trade** routes, or the way their **farming resulted in climate change and deforestation**.
- Either way, during the late Classic Period (600-900AD), they suffered **many problems**, including droughts, malnutrition and other environmental issues which led to **intense competition between city-states**.

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 into early form of book
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	Cgichen Itza ball court	Tikal, Copan, Palenque abandoned	Spanish conquest	Tomb of Pakal is discovered inside of a pyramid



Spring 2 – Year 6 – Maya - Homework

CLASSES 6MV and 6CS

Homework to be completed and returned by:
Monday 25th March

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!



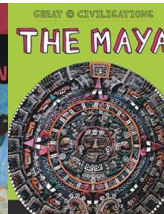
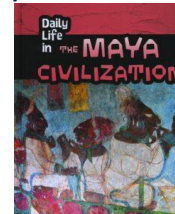
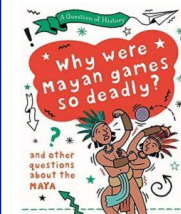
Maths

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:

