

Flinty Fell Autumn Term Long-term Homework - Welcome to the Maya Magical! Exploring the Ancient Mayan Civilisation

We are thrilled to embark on an exciting journey into the captivating world of the ancient Mayan civilisation! This term, our Year 5/6 classes will engage in a rich array of activities that not only deepen their understanding of a fascinating culture but also integrate their learning across various subjects in the National Curriculum. The homework tasks outlined below are thoughtfully designed to promote creativity, critical thinking, and self-directed learning. We encourage you to support your child in completing these tasks, fostering a sense of curiosity and excitement for learning. This document serves as a comprehensive guide, outlining a series of engaging activities linked to various subjects, ensuring a cross-curricular approach centred around the ancient Mayan civilisation. Each task is designed to connect knowledge from different areas of the curriculum while enhancing students' understanding of the Mayans' historical and cultural significance.

Subject	Activity	Expected Outcome
History	Research the ancient Mayan civilisation using a variety of resources, such as books, documentaries, and reputable online sources. Create a detailed timeline showcasing significant events, such as the rise and fall of various Mayan city-states and the evolution of their society. Aim to include at least ten key events, with visual aids to enrich your timeline.	Students will develop an understanding of chronology and the significance of historical events within the Mayan culture. By completing this task, they will be able to identify major developments that shaped the Mayan world.
Art	Design and create a Mayan-inspired artefact, such as a replica of a pottery piece, a sculpture, or a model of a temple. Use various materials such as clay, paper mâché, or recycled items. Write a short description explaining the cultural significance of your artefact, discussing its purpose, design features, and any symbolism it may hold.	This activity will encourage students' creativity while teaching them about Mayan artistry and symbolism, allowing them to connect their artistic expression to historical traditions.
Geography	Investigate the geographical location of the ancient Mayan civilisation. Create a detailed map highlighting key cities, such as Tikal and Chichen Itza, along with natural resources such as rivers, mountains, and agricultural areas. Include	Students will improve their mapping skills and understanding of geography by locating Mayan sites and



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	annotations that explain the significance of each geographical feature in relation to the Mayans' lifestyle and development.	features on a map while also learning about the impact of geography on the Mayan culture.
English	Write a diary entry from the perspective of a Mayan child living in a specific historical period. Include rich details about daily life, family structures, societal roles, education, and cultural practices. Illustrate your diary with drawings or photographs relevant to your entry, allowing your creative expression to capture the essence of a child's world in ancient Maya.	This task will enhance students' creative writing skills and their ability to empathise with individuals from different cultural backgrounds, promoting their understanding of life in ancient societies.
Maths	The Mayans used a vigesimal (base-20) number system, which is quite different from our decimal system. Create an informative presentation or poster explaining this system, including how to convert numbers from our decimal system to the Mayan numerical system. Provide examples and use visuals, such as diagrams or counters, to illustrate your points clearly.	Students will grasp the concept of different numerical systems, improving their mathematical understanding while learning about Mayan innovation in mathematics.
Science	Research the agricultural practices of the Mayans and create a detailed report on the types of crops they cultivated, such as maize, beans, and squash, as well as the innovative techniques they employed, like slash-and-burn agriculture and terracing. Include diagrams or drawings of crops, growing methods, and tools used in the agricultural process.	This report will provide students with insights into ancient agricultural science, fostering an appreciation for sustainability and innovation in farming methods that continue to be relevant today.
Music	Explore traditional Mayan music and instruments. Listen to samples of Mayan songs and investigate the types of instruments used, such as flutes, drums, and	This activity will strengthen students' musical skills and enhance their understanding of the cultural significance



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	marimbas. Create your own rhythm using homemade instruments, and then record a short performance to share with the class. Write a few sentences about what you discovered regarding the role of music and dance in Mayan society.	of music and its role in uniting the community during celebrations and rituals.
Physical Education	Organise a traditional Mayan game, such as pok-a-tok or a similar physical activity, by learning the rules and preparing an area for play. Invite friends or family to join in, emulating the Mayan practice of using games for both entertainment and social bonding. After playing, reflect in writing on the importance of physical activity in both ancient and modern contexts.	Students will develop teamwork and physical skills while learning about the cultural significance of games and sports in Mayan society, comparing them to contemporary activities.
PSHE	Reflect on the social structure of the Mayan civilisation. Create a poster or presentation illustrating the roles of different social classes (such as priests, nobles, traders, and farmers) and how they worked together to maintain society. Discuss the impact of these roles on the community and how they relate to modern social structures.	This will enhance students' understanding of societal roles and encourage comparison with contemporary structures, fostering empathy and social awareness.

Commitment to Learning

We encourage students to approach these activities with a sense of exploration and adventure. Each task is designed to not only fulfil curriculum requirements but also ignite a genuine interest in learning. Students are reminded that the quality of their work is much more important than quantity; a little creativity can go a long way!



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Furthermore, we recommend that students manage their time effectively, aiming to complete at least one activity each week. This approach allows for a focused exploration of each subject and enables them to delve deeply into the interconnectedness of the ancient Mayan culture.

Parental Involvement

Your active participation in your child's homework journey is invaluable. Engaging with them in discussions about their research, helping them gather materials for their artefact, or even sharing stories about your own educational experiences can greatly enhance their learning process. We also encourage families to visit local libraries or museums that may offer further insights into the Mayan civilisation, fostering a collaborative learning environment at home.

Reflective Sharing

At the end of the term, we will create an opportunity for students to present their work in class, fostering a supportive environment for sharing knowledge and creativity. This will promote confidence in public speaking and allow students to celebrate their achievements with their peers and families. Students will be encouraged to discuss what they learned, the challenges they faced, and exciting discoveries they made during their research and creative processes.

We cannot wait to see the amazing projects your children will create as we explore the rich tapestry of the ancient Mayan civilisation together. Let us celebrate both the learning and the journey itself, as we delve into the wonders of this extraordinary culture. Thank you for your support, and together, let's make this learning journey an unforgettable experience!

All my best,

Mr Percival

