

Our School Values – History	
Love	investigating and learning about the past and how it has shaped the world that we live in today.
Courage	challenging our own thinking as well as the actions of others in the past.
Unity	working in groups to research and found answers to our own questions.
Inspiration	encouraging others to reflect and learn from the past in order to be active global citizens.



## Year 4 History Mayans



### NC Objective

A non-European society that provides contrasts with British history – AD 900; Mayan civilization

### Knowledge I already know

**Settlement-** I know that the Romans spoke Latin and that forms many of our words today.

I know that a number of Roman buildings and roads can still be seen around Britain.

**Beliefs-** I know that in the Iron Age, Druids communicated with more than 400 gods that the people of tribes believed in.

### Knowledge I will learn

#### Settlement

I know that the Maya were a civilisation who lived in Mesoamerica (now Central America) between approximately 1800BC and AD1500.

I know that Mayan cities were designed to be extravagant. Palaces were several storeys high.

I know that ordinary families lived in a one room, windowless house.

I know that historians believe there are a number of possible reasons why the Maya cities fell into decline including disease, drought, tribes, a natural disaster or a great battle.

I know that there are small groups of Maya who still live in Central America and Southern America.

#### Invention and technology

I know that they are known for being the first Mesoamericans to develop writing.

I know that they built spectacular monuments and stepped pyramids – some (e.g. Chichen Itza) have become world tourist destinations in the modern day.

I know that they were also well-known for their advanced maths and calendars.

**Beliefs-** I know that Mayans were polytheists, meaning they believed in many nature gods or deities.

**Democracy-** I know that priests were considered the most important people in the Mayan culture. Warriors, craftsmen and traders were next in the hierarchy. Farmers, workers and slaves were at the bottom of the hierarchy.

### Key Vocabulary

Word	Definition
Chronology	In time order
Mesoamerica	Middle America. This refers to the modern day countries of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.
Glyphs	A hieroglyphic character or symbol
Domesticate	To tame and keep animals as pets or on a farm
Originate	Where something came from/started
Astronomy	The study of everything in the universe beyond the Earth's atmosphere.
Caste	A rigid class structure
Sacrifice	To slaughter an animal or person or give up a possession to offer to a deity (god or goddess).
Ritual	A religious ceremony consisting of a series of actions following a specific order.
Upper world	In Ancient Mayan culture, the Upper world carried much importance as a part of the three-realm universe. It was here where the sacred deities lived and ruled over the Mayan people.
Spanish conquest	The Spanish conquest resulted in centuries of cruelty towards the Maya people, causing their population to get smaller. In spite of this, many Maya people kept some of their traditions.
Artillery	Weapons

Chronology	Significance	Interpreting evidence	Interpreting evidence	Similarity/difference	Cause and consequence
What was happening in Britain at the same time as the Maya were at their most powerful?	Who developed the most significant invention by the Maya?	How did Mayan buildings differ for the rich and the poor?	What do sources tell us about Mayan society?	Were the Maya's beliefs similar to those of other periods studied?	What were the possible causes of the decline in Maya cities?
Timeline of historical periods	Invention and technology– compare to the Romans.	Mayan houses– research lesson. Compare ordinary houses to palaces.	Mayan society and hierarchy. Job description for job roles.	Beliefs. Create fact files.	Write answer to a debate question.
Challenge: Do you think Maya life today is the same or different to Maya life 1000 years ago?	Challenge: Do you think the Maya were more or less intelligent than people today?	Challenge: People in the Bronze Age and Ancient Maya were both farmers but they grew different crops. Why?	Challenge: Does this hierarchy exist today? Explain your reasoning.	Challenge: What other historical periods have you studied that are similar to the Mayan's beliefs? How were they the same? How were they different?	Challenge: Historians have presented many theories for the decline of the Maya civilization. Which do you think had the greatest impact and why?