

History - Ancient Maya - Year 6 Summer Term

Prior Learning:
Children will use their existing knowledge of other Ancient Civilisations in order to make links and answer questions

Key Vocabulary

Maya	The name given to the civilisation
Mayan	The language spoken by the civilisation
Civilisation	An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time.
ritual	A ceremony, often religious, with set actions performed in a set order
codices	Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex
maize	Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas.
scribes	People paid to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write.

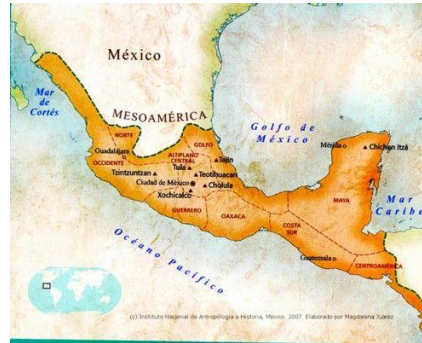
Overview

The Maya civilisation began long ago in a place called '**Mesoamerica**'. This huge area is made up of Mexico and part of Central America. The Mayas built amazing cities like **Tikal** (which they called 'Yax Mutal') and **Palenque**. Even though they lived in different cities, ruled by different kings and queens, the Mayas shared a lot of common beliefs and traditions. They were experts at reading the stars and even built their cities as a map of the sky! They were also inspired by the creatures of the forest and shared many legends about animals, plants and nature spirits.

Maya number system

0	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19

Location



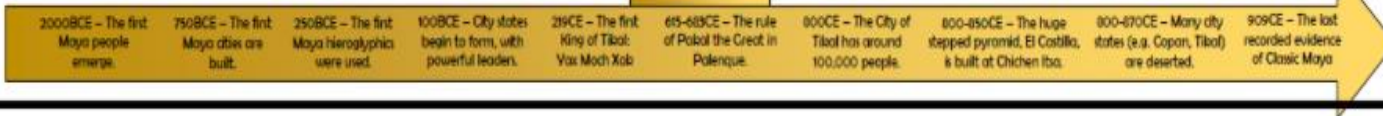
Key Learning

- The Maya civilisation spanned a significant time in History over 3000 years.
- The Maya believed in and worshipped a number of different gods. They believed that the gods had a good side and a bad side and that the gods could help or hurt them. Priests were very important in Maya society as it was believed that they could communicate directly with the gods. They would perform different rituals during festivals or special ceremonies in order to appeal to the gods.
- The Maya people believed that the earth, which they called the Middle world, was large and flat and resting on the back of a creature, such as a turtle or crocodile
- They were divided into different City states, each with their own rulers.

Can I answer:

Describe some of the aspects of ordinary life in Maya society.
How were the city states organised?
Why did the cities become abandoned in the 8th Century?
Explain how the Maya and Egyptian civilisations compare. Which society was the most successful and why?
Write about the lasting legacy of the Maya civilisation - what have we learnt from them?

Maya Timeline



Leadership

Religion

Childhood

Migration

Civilisation