

# What's happening in the news this week?



Wikimedia Commons

Let's have a look at this week's poster!

18th - 24th November 2024





## Let's look at this week's story

A discovery of more than 6,000 ancient Maya structures, including a city of pyramids, has been named Valeriana.

Hidden by jungle canopy in the Mexican state of Campeche, the city was discovered by chance. A student at Tulane University, in the US, found the city with the help of Lidar, a light detection technology, that uses lasers to map landscapes.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).

Watch this week's useful video [here](#).

This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



# How does it make me feel?



<b>sad</b> despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	<b>angry</b> aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	<b>happy</b> beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	<b>confused</b> addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	<b>excited</b> animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	<b>worried</b> agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	<b>overwhelmed</b> engulfed inundated overburdened overloaded saturated submerged swamped	<b>afraid</b> alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified
<b>guilty</b> ashamed compunctions contrite culpable penitent responsible rueful	<b>jealous</b> bitter covetous desirous envious envying resentful wary	<b>thankful</b> appreciative grateful gratified indebted obliged relieved	<b>shocked</b> astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	<b>disgusted</b> affronted appalled horrified repelled repulsed revolted sickened	<b>inspired</b> activated encouraged exhilarated galvanised influenced motivated	<b>embarrassed</b> ashamed awkward chagrined demeaned discomposed humiliated self-conscious uncomfortable uneasy unsettled	<b>interested</b> absorbed captivated curious engaged enthralled fascinated gripped intrigued riveted

# This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read the information found below about the recent discovery of Valeriana. What can we learn from knowing how others used to live?

## What has been discovered in Mexico?

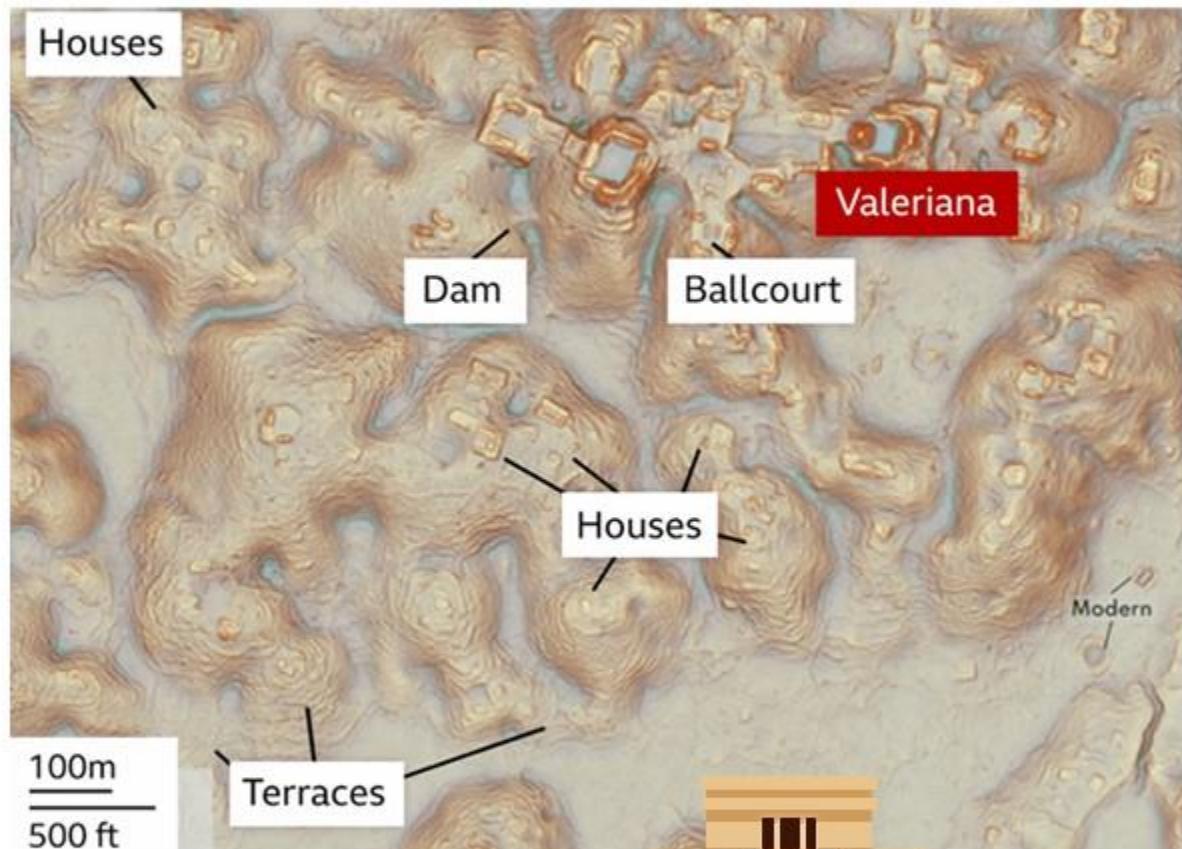
A huge Maya city in Mexico has been discovered by archaeologists. It includes pyramids, sports fields, amphitheatres and causeways connecting districts. The hidden complex, uncovered by student Luke Auld-Thomas, has been named Valeriana after a nearby lagoon.

The team accidentally discovered three sites in total, when Auld-Thomas browsed data on the internet and found previous Lidar 3D maps.

## How does Lidar technology work?

In recent years, many discoveries of past civilisations have come from Lidar technology. Lidar stands for Light Detection and Ranging. The system aims fast pulses of laser light at surfaces and detects reflections, to create a 3D map of an area.

Advances in Lidar technology have improved the laser light's ability to pass through tree canopies and generate images of the ground below. The findings can reveal signs of past human life, helping us to learn more about how people used to live.



**Above:** Lidar technology showing the newly-discovered Maya city of Valeriana. **Source:** BBC News.

## Resource one



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about the ancient Maya people.

The first ancient Maya people lived around 4000 years ago.

The ancient Maya people lived in a place called Mesoamerica. This very large area consists of Mexico and part of Central America.



Have you used a calendar? Have you ever had a tortilla? Do you like art and architecture?



They built hundreds of amazing cities that were each ruled by different kings or queens. Different cities would trade items such as jade, copper, food, decorated pottery, gold. Sometimes the different city states fought each other for control of people or resources.

For food, the ancient Maya hunted, gathered and farmed. They mostly ate maize, squash, beans and chili peppers. The maize was ground up to make tortillas to wrap meat and beans in.

### Fun facts!

It is thought the ancient Maya people invented the idea of zero.

They kept detailed and accurate calendars, which helped them with farming.

Art and architecture were important to the ancient Maya.

They developed a system of writing.

The ancient Maya were the first people to grow the cocoa plant for food.



## Look at the resource below, which shares some discoveries from the past.



Marie Curie.

### Radioactivity

Marie Curie discovered radioactivity. In 1895, Marie and her husband, Pierre, discovered that a metal called radium could kill cancer cells.



### America

Christopher Columbus was a sailor. He lived in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and became famous as the explorer who discovered lands called The Americas. People were already living there at the time though.



### Penicillin

Penicillin is an antibiotic used to treat infections caused by bacteria. It was discovered by Alexander Fleming in 1928.



### Electricity

Electricity is a natural force. Discoveries that have allowed people to better understand electricity and its use have happened over time.



### The Earth

Early scientists believed the Earth was the centre of the universe and the Sun travelled around the Earth. Later, it was discovered the Earth actually orbits the Sun.



**Were you aware of these discoveries? Do you think each discovery has changed the world? Discuss how each impacted the world at the time and now. Does everyone agree?**



**Why is discovery important?**

# Reflection



Throughout history, many discoveries have been made that have helped shape the world. They have changed the way we perceive the world and how things are done in the future.





## **Mutual Respect and Tolerance**

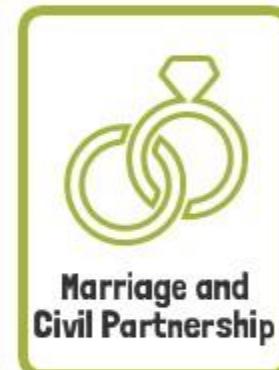
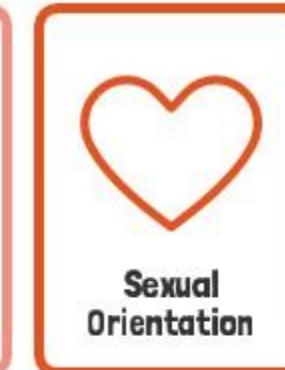
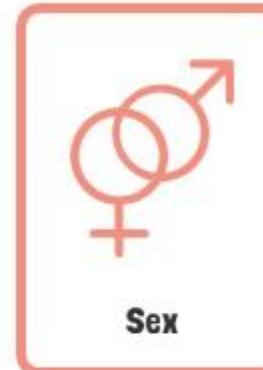
Learning about the people, who lived in the past and live across the world today, can help us understand and celebrate how different we all are!

# Protected Characteristics



The culture of Maya people today has been shaped by the ancient Maya civilisation.

Nobody should be treated unfairly because of their ethnic group (people with a shared history and culture) or nationality.





## UN Rights of the Child



We have the right to get information from the internet, radio, television, newspapers, books and other sources. They can help us discover more about our world!



# Useful vocabulary



## Ancient

Something that belongs to the very distant past.

The image shows part of a Maya city, an **ancient** civilisation found in Mexico.

## Archaeologist

Someone who studies the buildings, tools, and other objects of people who lived in the past.

Talk about how you think the **archaeologists** may have felt when they found the ancient structures.

## Civilisation

The society, culture, and way of life at a particular period in time.

The image shows part of a Maya city, an ancient **civilisation** found in Mexico.

## Discovery

A thing, person or fact that is found or learned about for the first time.

A **discovery** of more than 6,000 ancient Maya structures, including a city of pyramids, has been named Valeriana.

## Laser

A device that produces a powerful, narrow beam of light.

A student found the city with the help of Lidar, a light detection technology, that uses **lasers** to map landscapes.

## Perceive

To come to an opinion about something, or have a belief about something.

They have changed the way we **perceive** the world and how things are done in the future.

**Can you use them in your writing this week?**

# Collective Worship



## Pupil involvement

Show some images of various artefacts, such as pottery, jewellery, or tools. Explain that each item has a story and purpose, though its exact use may not be immediately clear to us.

Look closely at each of the pictures and try to imagine who might have used the artefact, whether it was for work, art, or a special event, and why it might have been important. Think and talk to the people around you.

Share your ideas and listen to those of others. Invite questions and explain your answers.

Sharing ideas with others can expand our thinking by highlighting different perspectives and ideas. Discovery can provide opportunities to explore possibilities, collaborate with others, and build understanding together.

**Bible link:** Proverbs 25:2  
**Christian value:** Curiosity  
**Theme:** Discovery

## Pupil talk

- What do you think it means to 'discover' something?
- Why do you think people are curious to find out what has happened in the past?
- How can discovering things from the past, like ancient cities and artefacts, help us see the beauty and mystery in God's world?

## Think

A discovery of more than 6,000 ancient Maya structures, including a city of pyramids, has been named Valeriana. Hidden by jungle canopy in the Mexican state of Campeche, the city was discovered by chance. A student at Tulane University, in the US, found the city with the help of Lidar, a light detection technology, that uses lasers to map landscapes.

As we uncover cities and artefacts from the past, we witness the amazing ways people throughout history have used their God-given abilities to build, craft, and leave a legacy of human ingenuity and artistry. As humans, it is our responsibility to respect and care for all the wonders, both natural and man-made, in God's world.

## Invitation prayer

Dear God,  
Thank you for the wonders of your Creation and for the amazing things people have built and discovered,  
Help us stay curious, respect what has come before,  
and use our gifts to make the world better.  
Amen

## Key stage 1 class discussion

- How do you think people feel when they make an exciting discovery? Why might it feel special?
- Imagine finding something that no one has seen for a long time. What would you do with it, and why?
- Do you think it is more important to take care of natural or man-made wonders? Why?

## Key stage 2 class discussion

- How might discoveries, like Valeriana, help us understand different cultures better?
- Do you think there are things about our world that are still waiting to be discovered? What might they be?
- Sometimes, discovering something new can change what we thought we knew about history or science. How do you think discoveries help us see the world differently?

## Worship song

All Things Bright and Beautiful



God



Creation



Fall



People of God



Incarnation



Gospel



Salvation



Kingdom of God

# Picture News



## Why is discovery important?

A discovery of more than 6,000 ancient Maya structures, including a city of pyramids, has been named Valeriana. Hidden by jungle canopy in the Mexican state of Campeche, the city was discovered by chance. A student at Tulane University, in the US, found the city with the help of Lidar, a light detection technology, that uses lasers to map landscapes.



- Look at this week's poster and describe what you can see. The image shows part of a Maya city, an ancient civilisation in Mexico. A new Maya city has recently been found. Read the information on the assembly resource about the discovery of Valeriana. What can we learn from knowing how others used to live?
- Watch this week's useful video and share some of the similarities and differences between the lives of the Maya people and your life.
- Talk about how you think the archaeologists may have felt when they found the ancient structures.
- What do we mean by the word 'discovery'? What is your definition?
- Can you think of any other big discoveries that have been made in the past? What impact have they had on the world?
- Do you think making discoveries is important? How do you think the world might be different if we stopped making them?

## Reflection

Throughout history, many discoveries have been made that have helped shape the world. They have changed the way we perceive the world and how things are done in the future.

# Picture News



## KS1 focus

### What do people know about the ancient Maya people?



- Think about the word 'ancient'. Do you know what it means? Can you say it in a sentence?
- If something is ancient, it belongs to the very distant past. The Maya structures in this week's story are ancient. Thousands of years ago, people would have lived there. These people were called ancient Maya. Have you heard of ancient Maya people before? Do you know anything about them?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some information about the ancient Maya people. Have you used a calendar? Have you ever had a tortilla? Do you like art and architecture?
- The ancient Maya people were the first to grow the cocoa plant for food. As a result, it is widely accepted that they invented chocolate! Do you eat chocolate? Have you ever considered when chocolate was discovered? How has the Maya people discovering chocolate impacted you today?
- Look back at resource 1 and think about any similarities and differences between the ancient Maya people and yourself.
- Although the ancient Maya people no longer exist, there are still millions of Maya people. Do you know anything about modern Maya people? How might their lives be different now?

## Reflection

People from ancient times have influenced our lives today. We can learn so many things from people, those in the past and those living in today's world too.

# Picture News



## KS2 focus

### What are some examples of past discoveries that have changed the world?



- A discovery is a thing, person or fact that is found or learned about for the first time. Can you share any discoveries you know of? What was discovered? How did it impact you, other people, the world?
- Look at resource 2, which shares some discoveries from the past. Were you aware of these discoveries? Do you think each discovery has changed the world? Discuss how each impacted the world at the time and now. Does everyone agree?
- Focus on 'The Earth' discovery. How do you believe your life would be different if you had no knowledge or understanding of the Sun and the universe?
- Do you think all discoveries are good, that they impact the world in a positive way? Do you think that some things are better left unknown? Why?
- Often, people seek discovery. They are trying to find something or learn about something. Do you seek to discover more? Do you enjoy trying new food, exploring new places, learning new skills? Have you ever discovered something new about yourself? What was it? How did you feel?
- Think about the future. What do you think people will learn from us? How do you think we will have changed the world?

## Reflection

Discoveries can impact people, places and things in different ways. Some discoveries from the past have had a positive impact on the world today. We hope to shape the future world positively too.



## KS2 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

Read and research to find out about a discovery made in the past.

- What was the discovery?
- When was it made?
- How was it made?
- Who made it?
- How did it impact the world at the time?
- How might life be different now if the discovery wasn't made?

Choose how to present your findings e.g., a poster, a slideshow, a fact file or orally.

### Option 2

Think about yourself.

- How well do you know yourself? Can you describe who you are?
- Would you like to discover more?
- Have you heard of the 'comfort zone'?

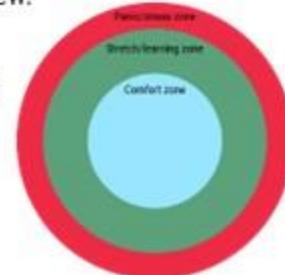
A 'comfort zone' refers to a mental and emotional state where you feel safe and secure. You do not experience fear or worry or anything uncomfortable.

- Can you list places, activities, routines that are in your comfort zone?

To discover more about ourselves and the world, we often need to step out of our comfort zone, and push ourselves to try something new.

- What would you like to push yourself to try?
- What might you discover?

Draw your own comfort zone diagram to record some of your thoughts.



## KS1 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

The ancient Maya people built pyramids.

- Can you describe what a pyramid looks like? Can you show it using your hands?

Using resource 1 and/or an internet search, look at some ancient Maya pyramids.

- What shapes can you see?
- What patterns can you see?
- Is the pyramid decorated?

Create your very own ancient Maya pyramid. You could use junk modelling materials, Lego, playdough, construction blocks or something else you have in your classroom.

### Option 2

A calendar is a system used to organise days, weeks, months and years. The ancient Maya kept detailed and accurate calendars. It was different from the calendar we use now.

- Do you know anything about our calendar?
- Is there a calendar in your classroom or your home?
- How many days are in a week?
- Can you name the days in a week?
- What day is it today?
- Can you name the months in a year?
- What year are we in?
- What year will it be next?

It will soon be 2025! Perhaps you could make a calendar for next year.



## This week's useful websites

### This week's news story

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crmznzkly3go](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crmznzkly3go)

### This week's useful video

Ancient Maya City Discovered

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXVL395hvFA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXVL395hvFA)

### This week's Virtual Picture News

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

### This week's vocabulary

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# Cheese Thief

Police have been on a cheese hunt after hundreds of truckles (wheels) of cheddar, worth over £300,000, were stolen from Neal's Yard Dairy in London! On 21<sup>st</sup> October, Neal's Yard reported that people pretending to be real wholesalers had tricked them and taken the cheese. The stolen cheddar, weighing over 22 tonnes, included special types like Hafod Welsh, Westcombe, and Pitchfork - all favourites for cheese lovers! Even though the cheese was taken, Neal's Yard kept their promise to pay the small farmers who made it so they wouldn't suffer. 'It's been a big challenge for us,' said a Neal's Yard spokesperson, 'but

we want to support our small dairy suppliers.' Police arrested a 63-year-old man, who they think was involved, and they're still investigating the cheesy mystery. Neal's Yard hopes the missing cheese will soon be found!



Pictured: Tasty cheese at Neal's Yard Dairy.  
Source: @NealsYardDairy on X.

# All Aboard!

Scotland's famous 'Harry Potter' bridge, the Glenfinnan Viaduct, is currently getting some repairs! The old stone bridge, which appears in the Harry Potter films with the Hogwarts Express steaming across, is in need of some TLC to keep it strong and safe. Engineers are working carefully on the bridge, repairing cracks and strengthening the stones, to make sure it's fit and ready for many more years of magical journeys! 'The Glenfinnan Viaduct is very special,' said lead engineer Mark Wilson. 'We want to make



Pictured: The iconic Glenfinnan Railway Viaduct. Source: Exploring Alway on X.

sure it looks its best for all the fans who come to see it'. The bridge repairs will be done slowly to protect and preserve the original bridge as much as possible.

## How can our hopes and dreams help us to succeed?



*Hopes and dreams help us succeed because you make your own path it's not given to you, you make your own path in life. Rosalee*

Let us know what you think about this week's news



[picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://picture-news.co.uk/discuss)



[help@picture-news.co.uk](mailto:help@picture-news.co.uk)



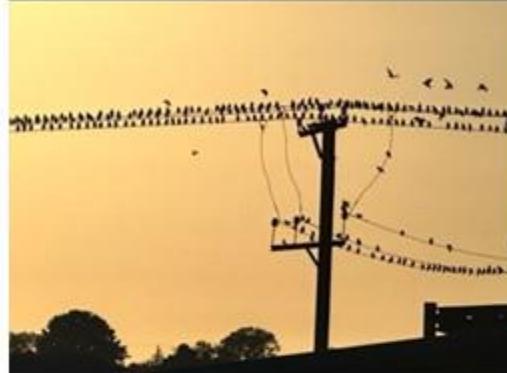
@HelpPicture

# Picture News Stars!

Grewelthorpe C of E School in North Yorkshire have announced the winners of their Picture News inspired wildlife photography competition! The school decided to hold the competition after we asked the big question, 'How can photos shape the world?'. Staff invited all pupils to submit a photo that they had taken of wildlife in any country! The school council shortlisted the entries, and Wildlife Photographer of the Year finalist, Sarah Blake, selected a



Pictured: Daisy and Joey with the wildlife photo display at their school. Source: Mr Breckon, Grewelthorpe School.



Pictured: Daisy and Joey's winning photo.  
Source: Grewelthorpe School.

winner. Siblings Daisy and Joey took the prize-winning photo together. Daisy said, 'It was taken just one evening on our farm whilst walking the dogs near Ripon. The birds often gather on the telephone lines, and we just took the picture one day as it looked so calm and peaceful.' Sarah explained her choice, saying that it was down to having the movements of passing birds, mixed in with the stillness and tranquillity of the scene with a beautiful sunset backdrop that influenced her decision.

**Has your school run any competitions based on something that you have learned about through Picture News?**

**Let us know about it and you too could be a Picture News star in the spotlight!**

## Tiny Toad

A new tiny toad has been discovered living in a Brazilian rainforest.

Researchers found the miniature amphibians in the Atlantic Rainforest, Ubatuba, on the coast of Brazil's São Paulo state. The extremely small toads are commonly known as flea-toads or toadlets. The world's second smallest vertebrate was identified by scientists working with Project Dacnis. They named it, *Brachycephalus Dacnis*, after the conservation, research and education project that cares for stretches of Atlantic Rainforest. The toad measures only 6.95 millimetres, and as you can see from the photo opposite, it is much smaller than a fingertip! The mini toads are also unique as they don't enter the world as a tadpole, they emerge from an egg, fully formed. 'There are small toads with all the characteristics of large toads except for their size,' says Luis



Pictured: *Brachycephalus Dacnis*.  
Source: Projeto Dacnis on Facebook.

Felipe Toledo, a biology professor at the State University of Campinas. 'This genus is different. During its evolution, it underwent what we biologists call miniaturisation, which involves loss, reduction and/or fusion of bones, as well as fewer digits and absence of other parts of their anatomy.'

**Did you know that toads this small exist?  
Do you think that there are lots of animals in the world that we haven't discovered yet?**

## How can our hopes and dreams help us to succeed?



*I think that in order to achieve a goal you need to not let anything get to you and follow the path you desire even when things get tough.*

**Mikhail**

**Let us know what you think about this week's news**



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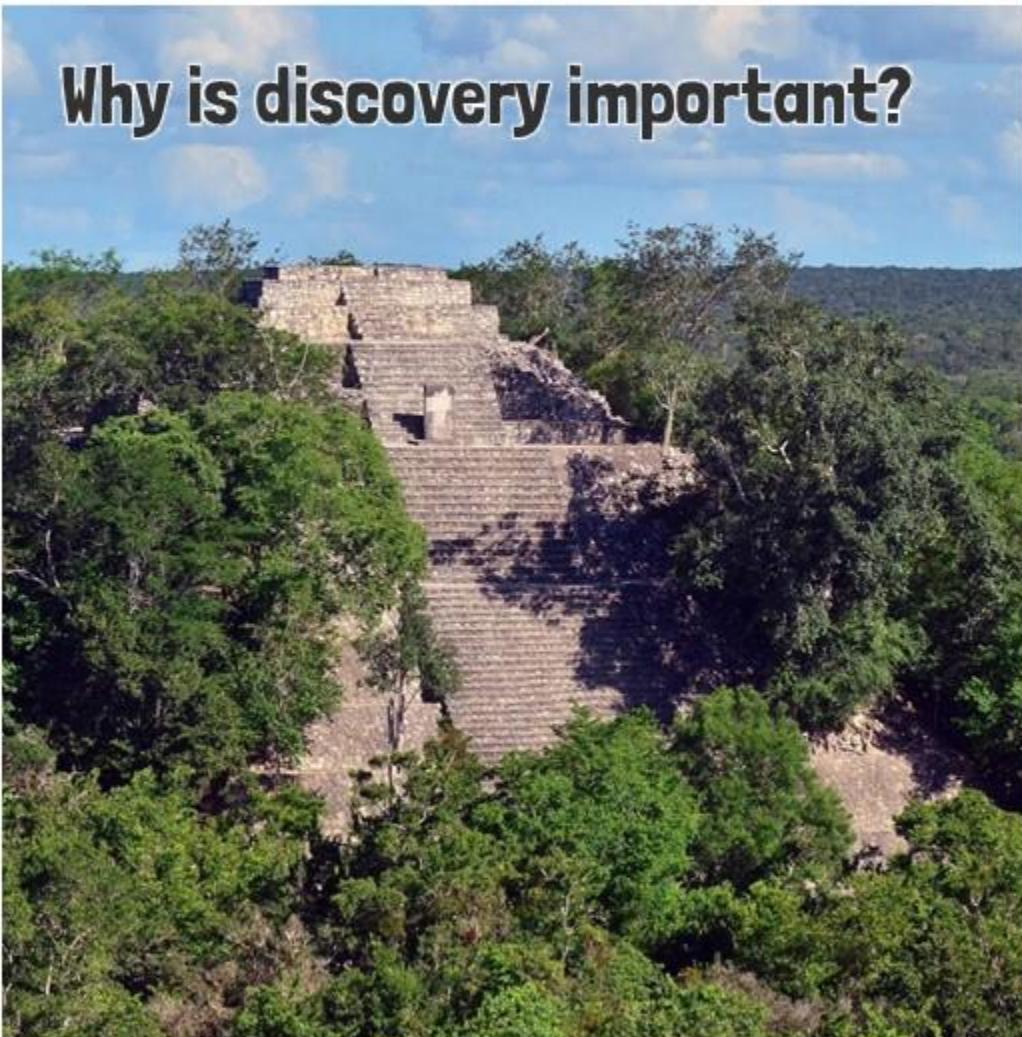
@HelpPicture

# TAKE HOME

18th - 24th November



## Why is discovery important?



## In the news this week

### Things to talk about at home ...

- Share what your definition of 'discovery' is with someone at home. Ask what their definition is.
- Can you think of any big discoveries in the world made during your lifetime? Ask others at home whether they can recall any. Talk about the impact each had.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

