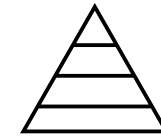


Year 5

The Mayans



Where am I in History?

What came before?

What comes next?

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Key words



Skills covered this half term:

- Draw a timeline with different historical periods showing key historical events and important historical figures.
- Understand that historical sources might reflect different viewpoints and explain the arguments for and against each point of view.
- Test out a hypothesis to answer questions.

The Maya believed and worshipped several different gods. They believed that the gods had a good side and bad side and that gods could help or hurt them.

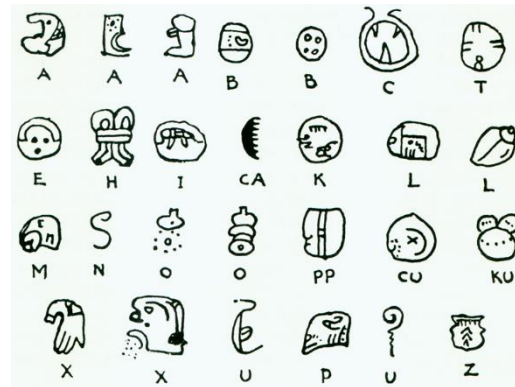
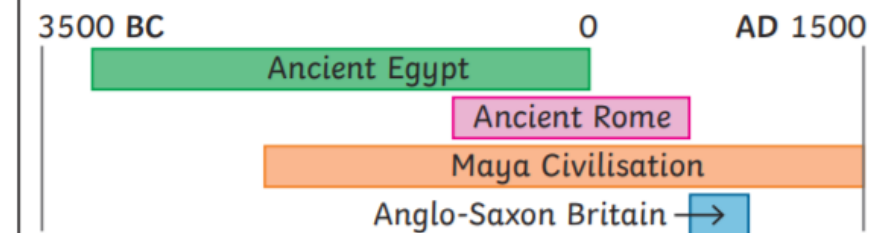


Priests were very important in Maya society as it was believed that they could communicate directly to the gods. They would perform different rituals during special festivals or ceremonies.

Maize was a very important crop that formed around 80% of the Maya diet. The Mayans believed the first humans were made by the gods from maize dough!



Timeline



Key Events

2000 BC	The Maya civilisation comes into being in Central America.
300 BC	Cities, such as El Mirador, become large and powerful.
AD 900	Cities in the rainforest are abandoned due to an extensive drought . People move north to the highlands of Guatemala and the Yucatán.
AD 1000	Cities like Chichén Itzá (which has two temple pyramids) are still thriving.
AD 1500s	The Spanish arrive in South America and set out to destroy the remaining elements of Maya civilisation as part of their conquest.
AD 1839	American explorer and writer, John Lloyd Stephens, and British artist, Frederick Catherwood explore Copán and extensively document what they find, reigniting interest in the Maya civilisation . They go on to document other Maya cities, including Chichén Itzá.
AD 2014	The cities of Lagunita and Tamchén are rediscovered.

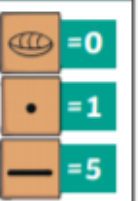
Food

The Mayans hunted deer, rabbits and turkeys for making stews. Fish supplied part of their diet so fishing was also an important source of living.



Maya Numbers

The Maya developed a complex number and counting system that was advanced for their time. They were one of only two cultures in the world to develop the concept of zero.



The Maya people used just three symbols in their number system. These are thought to represent items that the Maya people might have first used to count with, such as pebbles, sticks and shells.

The Maya used a base 20 number system, so after number 19, multiples of 20 were written above the bottom number.



Key Vocabulary

Cacao beans	Cacao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When ripe the pods can be broken to reveal the beans.
Civilisation	An organised society living with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular place over a period of time.
Codices	Ancient handwritten text. One text is called a codex.
Drought	A period of very little rain.
Jaguar	A big cat with yellowish fur and black spots.
Maize	Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into dough or baked into tortillas.
Ritual	A ceremony, often religious, performed with set actions.
Scribes	People paid to write things down to keep as records or for people who couldn't write.