



Topic: Forces and Forests

Year: 5/6

1,100 BC The first 'Mayan' settlements begin to appear in Mesoamerica along the pacific coast.

800BC Instead of foraging, maize farming begins and trade between villages begins.

700BC Mayan writing begins to develop through the form of hieroglyphs.



100BC – 450AD Maya constructs its first pyramids and developing cities, prompting the rapid rise of Tikal in the tropical lowlands.



638AD Pakal the Great (King of Palenque) dies. His death mask made of jade is created.

800AD – 1,502AD Mayan civilization begins to decline and vanish, The Mayan ruins are found by a Spanish expedition lead by Francisco Hernández de Córdoba.

Vocabulary

- Artefact - An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.
Chichen Itza- One of the best-preserved examples of a Mayan city civilisation - Human society which is organised.
Deity- a synonym for god
Dynasty - A series of rulers or leaders who are all from the same family or a period when a country is ruled by them.
Empire - A group of countries ruled by a single person, government, or country
Hieroglyphics - A system of writing using pictures not words.
Kingdom - A place ruled by a king, queen or important person
Mesoamerica- The region in which the Maya lived, spanning over Mexico and parts of Southern America.
Temple - A building used for the worship of a god or gods in some religions.
Tomb - A large stone structure or underground room where someone, especially an important person, is buried.



The Mayan Number System table showing numbers 0-19 with their corresponding symbols (dots and bars).

Did you know...?

- The Mayans believed in three realms – heaven, earth and the underworld.
The Mayan civilisation did not abruptly collapse, it was a slow decline.
At the site of Copan, on the stairway there are 2,200 individual glyphs representing the major rulers of the Copan dynasty It's the longest made Mayan hieroglyphic text.
The Mayans created spectacular temples and pyramids without the use of metal tools, wheels and domesticated beasts.
Ceremonial masks were used for many purposes but mainly funerals, to protect noblemen in the afterlife.

Historical Skills and Knowledge

- a non-European society that provides contrasts with British history –Mayan civilization c. AD 900
Find out and compare beliefs, behaviour and characteristics of people, recognising that not everyone shares the same views and feelings
Use a range of sources (primary and secondary) to find out about an aspect of time past
Confidently use the library and internet for research

**Question 1 :**  
What do you think a Mayan home would have looked like?

**Question 2:**  
On which continent did the Maya live?

Start of unit	End of unit

**Question 3 :** Can you think of an example of a primary and secondary source of evidence that would tell us about the Maya?

Start of Unit	End of Unit

Question 4:	Start of unit	End of unit
Describe the biome in which the Maya lived.		

**Question 5:** Name two jobs/roles in Mayan society

Start of Unit	End of Unit

**Question 6 :**  
Were the Maya religious beliefs monotheistic or polytheistic?

Start of Unit	End of Unit



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Important facts


Vocabulary


Diagrams

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