

Knowledge Organiser Phase 2 Spring Term

What should I already know?

- South America is a continent.
- Other civilisations include the Egyptians and the Greeks.
- The chronology of British history.
- Events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally



How Can Culture Unite Us? History

Key Vocabulary

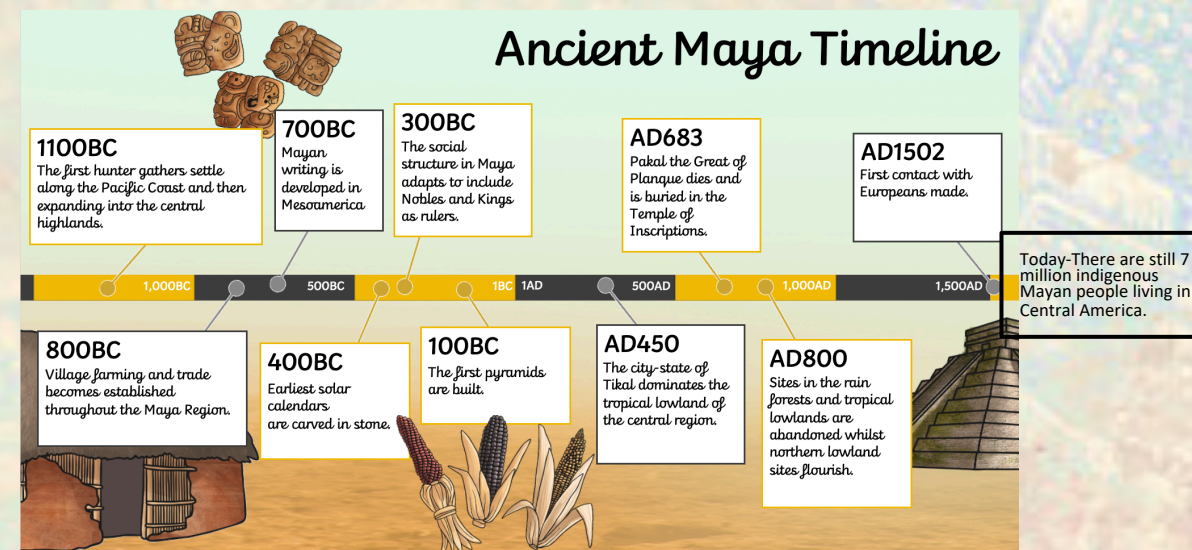
archaeologist	someone who studies the past by exploring old remains
architecture	the art of planning, designing and constructing buildings
Chichen Itza	a village in Yucatán state in Mexico: site of important Maan ruins. a village in Yucatán state in Mexico: site of important Maan ruins. A UNESCO World Heritage Site
chronology	the order of events in time
circa	- Latin meaning 'around'. c. 800 BC means around 800 BC.
civilisation	a human society with its own social organisation and culture.
codex/codices	Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.
culture	activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation
deities	a god or goddess
glyph	A symbol that is used to represent a word.
hierarchy	a system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance
indigenous	people or things belong to the country in which they are found
Mayan	of, relating to, or characteristic of the Maya or any of their languages
Mesoamerica	Central America - the countries consist of Mexico, Guatemala, El Central America - tand Belize; and the western sections of Honduras and Salvador, Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica
pok-a-tok	An ancient ball game played by the Mayans. It was the first ever team sport.
pyramid	The Maya built pyramids with flat tops
plaza	An open square in a city
society	people in general, thought of as a large organized group



Key Facts

- Mayan cities had similar layouts to each other. They would have a palace for the ruler, a plaza for the marketplaces and temples, in the form of pyramids.
- Mayan cities were often found near trade routes and good farmland.
- Mayans were polytheists, believing in many nature gods or deities.
- 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.
- Mayan merchants traded many goods including salt, cotton, honey and jade.
- The Mayan calendar (Tzolkin) consisted of 260 days and 13 months.
- The demise of the Mayan civilisation came about because of a mixture of deforestation, land erosion and drought.

Ancient Maya Timeline



Maya Writing

The Maya writing system, used to write several different Maya languages, was made up of over 800 symbols called glyphs. Some glyphs were logograms, representing a whole word, and some were syllabograms, representing units of sound. They were carved onto stone buildings and monuments and painted onto pottery. Maya **scribes** also wrote books, called **codices**, made from the bark of fig trees. Only priests and noblemen would know the whole written language.



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.



Mad Mayan Facts

- The Mayans predicted that the world would end in 2012
- Flat foreheads were fashionable so they would put baby's heads in a press to squash them.
- It was considered beautiful to be cross-eyed so parents would hang balls in-between the children's eyes to make them look inwards.
- Mayans sacrificed humans for religious and medical reasons and it was thought to be an honor to be sacrificed.
- Noble women would file their teeth into sharp points.