



Topic - History, Ancient Maya

Year 5/6

Term Autumn term 2022

Important Facts

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 |
| 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. |

Diagrams



Historic Vocabulary

Civilisation - An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time.

Drought - A long period with very little rain.

Ritual - A ceremony, often religious, with set actions performed in a set order

Scribes - People paid to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write.

Codices - Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.

Glyph - A symbol used in writing.

Maize - Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas.

Cacao - Cacao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When they are ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans, which can then be dried, roasted and ground.

Agriculture - farming; growing crops or rearing animals.

What will I know by the end of this unit?

- Facts about the Maya civilisation and explain who the Maya people were and **when** and **where** in the world they lived.
- Know the religious beliefs of the Maya people, understand how they worshipped, name some of the main gods and know what they represented to the people .
- Understand how the Maya number system works .
- How to identify and use a range of evidence sources to help me understand more about the Maya civilisation.
- What the Mayan writing system consists of, how words are constructed and what codices are.
- Be able to describe a range of foods that were eaten by the ancient Maya people and explain why certain foods were particularly significant.

Timeline

