



Coleman Primary School

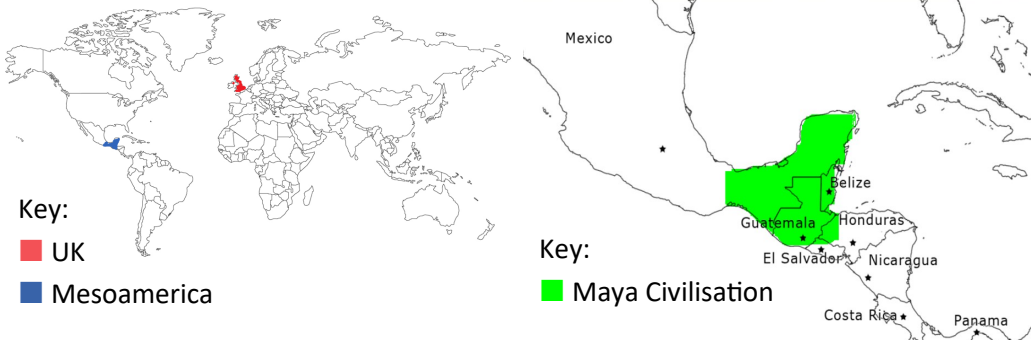
Year 4 Summer 1 Knowledge Organiser

History—The Maya Civilisation

Where did the Maya live?

Map of the world

Map of Mesoamerica



The Maya lived in **Mesoamerica** from around 2000 BC to around 1000 AD. The **ruins** of their buildings were first discovered by **conquistadors** in 1519 AD.

Maya Civilisation and Society



Maya society had many levels of importance. At the very top was a King and the lowest ranking were slaves. Nobles, priests, palace officials, merchants and craftsmen, farmers and labourers came in between.

Religion was important in **Maya civilisation** and they built many temples. They had writing and number systems using **glyphs** and three different calendars.



a **Maya temple**



a **Maya codex**



a **Maya calendar**



simple homes



woven material



Maya clothes



a decorated pot for use in a **ritual**

You will learn...

- where and when the Maya lived
- about Maya civilisation and society
- about every day life for the Maya

Key Vocabulary: The Maya Civilisation

Maya: a civilisation which began in Mesoamerica in around 2000 BC

conquistadors: Spanish explorers who discovered Maya ruins in the 1500s

civilisation: an organised society with its own culture and way of life

artefacts: objects made by human beings

ritual: a ceremony, often religious, with set actions in a set order

archaeologists: a person who learns about the past by studying artefacts

codices: ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex

maize: another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob

drought: a long period with very little rain

Mesoamerica: an area between North and South America

ruins: the remains of an old building

glyph: a hieroglyphic character or symbol

Maya life

arrows made of wood, stone and volcanic glass



maize

History Skills Progression

In Year Three you learnt to...

- find out about everyday lives of people in the time studied
- distinguish between different sources and evaluate their effectiveness
- use dates related to the passing of time

In Year Four you will...

- begin to develop an understanding of an ancient civilisation
- begin to evaluate the usefulness of different sources
- use terms related to the period and begin to date events