

History

Theme : The Maya

Year 5/6



Key Vocabulary

Key Knowledge and facts

Key Maps

WORD	DEFINITION
Artefact	An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.
Cacao	A tree that sprouts pods directly from its trunk. When ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans, which can then be dried, roasted and ground.
Calendar	A printed table showing all the days, weeks, and months of the year.
Civilisation	Human society which is organised.
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.
Maize	Maize, also known as corn, is a cereal grain.
Sacrifice	An act of slaughtering an animal or person as an offering to a god or gods.
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.
Worship	To have or show a strong feeling of respect and admiration for God or a god.

- Maya society was based in what is known as **Mesoamerica**.
- The Maya empire was organised into city states; each city state was ruled by a different noble family.
- Maya people lived in settlements with a central temple/pyramid as a focal point.
- Maya city states traded with each other - sometimes using cacao beans as money.
- The Maya used hieroglyphs to inscribe in stone slabs (called stelae) and in books (called codices).
- The Maya observed the movement of the sun, moon and stars to create calendars.
- The Maya created a logical and advanced number system.
- Masks were used for many purposes, but mainly funerals to protect important people in the afterlife.
- The Maya believed in and worshipped a number of different gods. They believed that the gods had a good side and a bad side and that the gods could help or hurt them.
- Priests were very important in Maya society as it was believed that they could communicate directly with the gods.

Where did the Maya live?
 Mesoamerica – now known as Mexico - which lies between the USA and South America, in a region known as Central America. It's a long strip of land with coast on both sides; the Pacific Ocean on the west, and the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea in the east.

Where in World is Central America?

Timeline comparing historical periods