

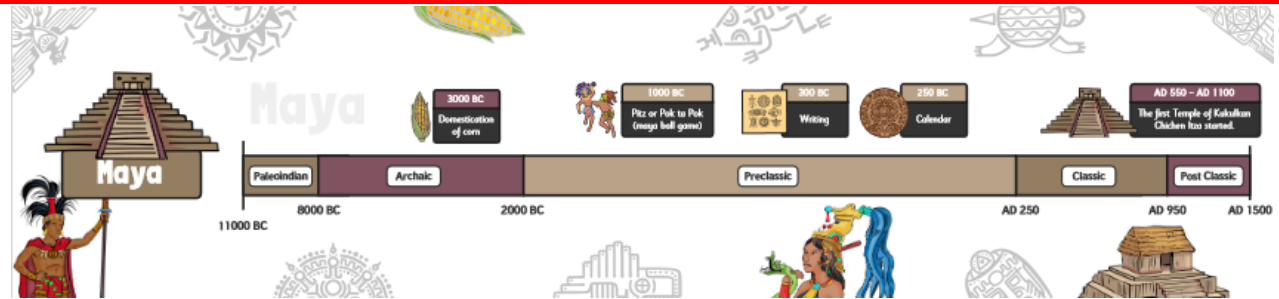
History

Maya Civilisation

Year 6

Key Vocabulary

Ajaw	A Maya king/leader
Artefact	An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.
Cacao	The tree that bears cacao seeds, which are contained in large, oval pods that grow on the trunk.
Civilisation	Human society which is organised.
Empire	A group of countries ruled by a single person, government, or country.
Heptarchy	The name given to the 7 kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon England
Kingdom	A place ruled by a king, queen, or important person.
Ravine	A deep, narrow valley
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.



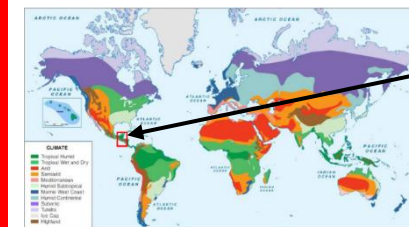
Key Knowledge

- 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.
- 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.

Key Maps

Where did the Maya live?

Mesoamerica – now known as Mexico - 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 the world is Central America?