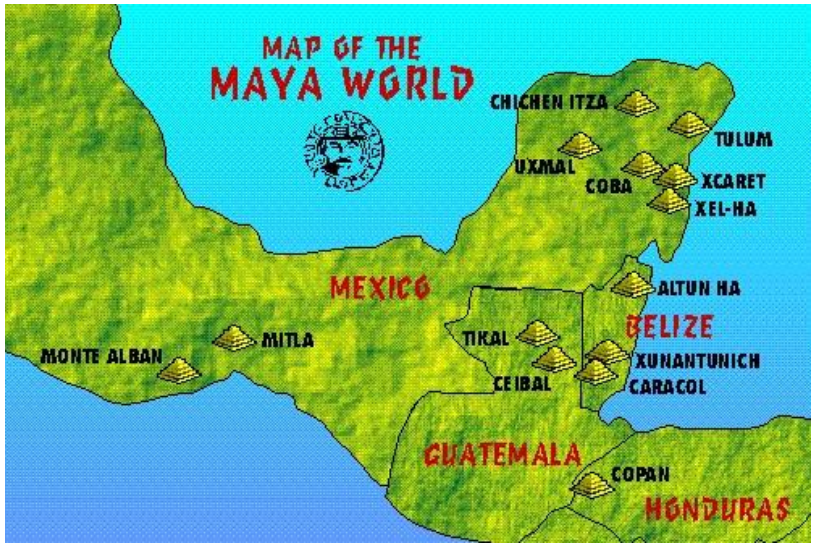
Northgate Primary School Year 6 Knowledge Organiser

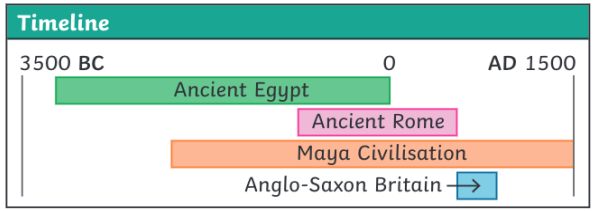
The Magnificent Maya!

In this topic, we will explore who the ancient Maya people were, where they lived in the world and when their civilisation was thriving. We will learn about their religion and the different Gods they worshipped; their daily life, including childhood, jobs, food and trade; their successes in developing an alphabet and number system and the cities and structures they built, some of which are still standing today. We will also develop our understanding of how we know about the ancient Maya civilisation through the use of historical sources.

Where and when did the ancient Maya live?



The area in which the ancient Maya people lived used to be known as Mesoamerica. In modern day, this area stretches between parts of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras, in Central America.



The ancient Maya civilisation was established in 2,000 B.C, which is over 4,000 years ago. They lived at the same time as other ancient civilisations.

Glossary

ancient	Belonging to the distant past; very old; having existed for a long time.
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.
scribes	People paid to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else who is unable to write.
codices	Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina (opening by pulling sideways in both directions at the same time).
codex	One ancient handwritten text.
glyph	A hieroglyphic character or symbol used for writing and communicating.
agriculture	The science or practice of farming.





Links to previous learning:	You should already know:
Year 3 – Study of Ancient Egypt	• About the daily life, culture, achievements, successes and difficulties faced by the ancient Egyptian civilisation, including which part of the world they occupied during their time.
Year 4 – Study of Ancient Rome and the Anglo-Saxons	• About the daily life, culture, achievements, successes and difficulties faced by the ancient Roman civilisation, including which part of the world they occupied during their time. • The Anglo-Saxon invasion of Britain.

Useful Websites

https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/mayans/

https://www.ducksters.com/history/maya/maya_civilization_timeline.php

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw

Ancient Maya Civilisation Key Events Timeline



300 B.C. – Cities, such as El Mirador, become large and powerful.



AD 1000 – Cities like Chichén Itzá (which has two temple pyramids) are still thriving.

AD 1839 – American explorer and writer, John Lloyd Stevens and British artist, Frederick Catherwood, explore Copán and extensively document what they find, reigniting interest in the Maya civilisation. They document Maya cities, including Chichén Itzá.





2000 B.C - The Maya civilisation comes into being in Central America.





AD 900 – Cities in the rainforest are abandoned due to extensive drought. People move north to the highlands of Guatemala and the Yucatán.

AD 1500 – The Spanish arrive in South America and set out to destroy the remaining elements of Maya civilisation as part of their conquest.

AD 2014 - The ancient Maya cities of Lagunita and Tamchén are rediscovered.

