

Mayans



Curriculum Links:

A non-European society that provides contrasts with British history:

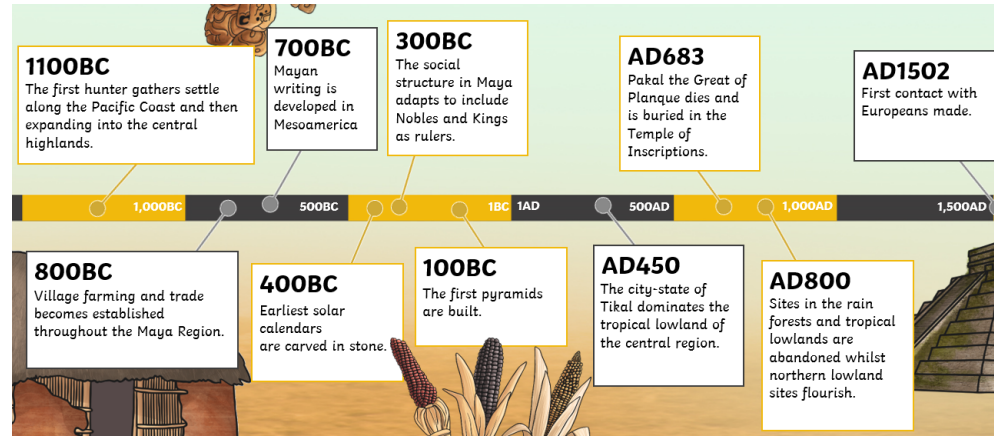
Mayan civilization c. AD 900

Key Facts:

- The Maya originated at around 2600BC and were at their most powerful around 250AD. By 900AD, the Maya civilization began to decline. It is unknown how the Maya civilization ended.
- Maya people lived in an area called Mesoamerica (modern day Mexico and Central America). They shared a common culture and religion; however, each city governed itself.
- The Maya were advanced mathematicians and created their own number system. They used this alongside their knowledge of astronomy to create calendars.
- Mayans worshipped many gods who they believed they could communicate with through blood-letting and sacrifice
- The Mayans had a very advanced culture they created: their own written language, a number system, astronomical system and great architecture.
- Chichén Itzá is famous for its pyramid temple built by the Maya civilization, it is now considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the New World.

Possible trips/visits: We should already know:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maya Workshop • Kent Life | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ancient Egyptians worshipped many gods • Hindus worship a number of gods • South America is a continent, some human and physical features in South America |
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Key Vocabulary

Astronomy	The branch of science which deals with space and the universe
City-State	An independent government where a large city rules the surrounding area
Civilization	A human society which is organised
Hieroglyphs	The Maya writing system
Maize	The main source of food for the Mayans
Mesoamerica	A historical region including parts of Mexico and Central America
Pyramid	The Maya built steep pyramids with flat tops
Sacrifice	Humans and animals were used as blood offerings to god
Temple	A building used to worship a god or gods
Worship	To have a feeling of admiration for a god/gods