

Ancient Maya Civilisations



National Curriculum Knowledge outcomes:

*Pupils should be taught about a non-European society that provides contrasts with British history

*Pupils have a wide ranging knowledge about historical events

*Pupils have a deep understanding of how our knowledge of history is developed, identifying how a range of sources build up our knowledge and understanding

*Pupils can organise information purposefully when responding to or asking questions

*Pupils have a secure knowledge of chronology, accurately placing a range of historical events from around the world on a timeline

*Pupils can draw their own timeline, deciding on accurate intervals and adding to it as they learn about new periods of history

The Learning Journey:

Can I locate countries and cities?

Atlas skills to look at the area covered by the Maya people and the location of settlements.

Can I explain the religious beliefs of the Maya people?

Creating a fact file of Maya Gods.

Can I explain how the Maya number system worked?

Creating a game which explains how the number system worked.

Can I identify information from Maya sources?

Looking at a range of historical sources. Oracy opportunity.

Can I explain how Maya words were constructed?

Creating logograms

Can I describe the significance of Maya foods?

Research on the main foods of the Maya people, ending with a debate on which had the greatest significance to the Mayans.

Oracy opportunities:

Lesson 4 - fed in facts to label images from different sources using information.

Lesson 6 – debate to share viewpoints – using the discussion guidelines created as a class.

Key Vocabulary:

Spelling	Definition/Sentence
Chichén Itzá	A large city built by the Maya people. Located in Mexico
Xibalba	The name of the underworld
Upper and underworld	On the Middleworld (where they lived) grew a tree whose branches reached up into the heavens (the Upperworld) and whose roots grew down into Xibalba (the Underworld), which was guarded by gods of death who looked like jaguars.
Codices	Ancient handwritten texts. One text is called a codex.
Maize	An important crop – sweetcorn- which was made in to dough and baked in to tortillas.
Cacao beans	A dried seed of the fruit which is used to make chocolate and cocoa.
Logograms	A written or pictorial symbol to represent a word