

Knowledge about The Maya

- ❑ The **Maya** civilization were people who lived in **Central America** approximately 2000 BC to 1697. However, people still live in Central America now who are Maya.
- ❑ The Maya civilization from central Mexico to Honduras, Guatemala, and northern El Salvador.
- ❑ In the year 1000 settlements like Chichen Itza were among the largest settlements anywhere in the world.
- ❑ The Maya believed in and **worshipped different gods**. They believed that the gods had a good side and a bad side and that they could help or hurt them.
- ❑ Maya written language comprised of **hieroglyphics** and **logograms**.
- ❑ **Maize** or corn was the main food of the Maya people and made up to 80% of their diet. They also gave us food such as vanilla, chillies, avocado and tomato.
- ❑ Maya people were able to do complex calculations, which allowed them to create very detailed and accurate **calendars using knowledge of the stars**. They used these calendars for farming.
- ❑ The Maya **hierarchy** consisted of kings, generals, scribes, priests, craftsmen, labourers, farmers, warriors and slaves.

Subject-Specific Vocabulary

Word	Definition
Tier 1	
❑ Ancient Civilization	The first settled and stable communities that had a common language (spoken and written), important art and architecture, and cities, based upon how people work, social classes, and a system of government.
❑ Archaeologist	A person who studies ancient lives and cultures .
❑ Artefact	An object which has been made or modified by a human.
Tier 2	
❑ Hieroglyph	A picture used to write something.
❑ Nomad	A member of a people that travels from place to place to find fresh pasture for its animals and has no permanent home.
Tier 3	
❑ Codex/ ❑ Codices	A type of book written by the Maya that was created by one long sheet of paper that was then folded like an accordion.
❑ Chichen Itza	A large pre-Columbian city built by the Maya people of the Terminal Classic Period.
❑ Logograms/ ❑ Syllabograms	Different types of glyphs used in Maya writing.
❑ Xocolatl	The Maya word for chocolate meaning 'bitter water'.

Y5 The Maya



- ❑ The Maya would go into the forest in the dry season and fell a number of trees, leaving them there where they landed. The hot sun would then dry the trees which in turn would be burned . This was **slash and burn**.
- ❑ The Maya believed that **chocolate** was a gift from the gods.

Reading Texts

'The Genius of the Maya' – Izzi Howell
'The History Detective Investigates Maya Civilization' – Clare Hibbit

Memorable Moments

Children will make corn tortillas and hot chocolate using traditional recipes. Visit from the UK's only Maya archaeologist – Dr Diane.

Links

Y1/2 – Hot and cold places
Y3 – Romans
Y4 - Tudors
Y5 - Victorians

Mayan Civilisation



History Themes

