



# Year 6 Summer Term Knowledge organiser

## What happened to the Mayans?

### National Curriculum objectives:

A non-European society that provides contrasts with British history – one study chosen from: early Islamic civilization, including a study of Baghdad c. AD 900; Mayan civilization c. AD 900; Benin (West Africa) c. AD 900-1300.

### Historical skills and enquiry:

- Y4 - I can place some historical periods in a chronological framework
- Y4 - I can use historic terms related to the period of study
- Y4 - I use sources of information in ways that go beyond simple observations to answer questions about the past
- Y4 - I can use a variety of resources to find out about aspects of life in the past
- Y4 - I can explain what I have learned in an organised and structured way, using appropriate terminology.
- Y4 - I can describe the achievements of the earliest civilizations and a deeper knowledge of one of them
- Y5 - I can use dates to order and place events on a timeline
- Y5 - I can make comparisons between aspects of periods of history and the present day
- Y5 - I can understand that the type of information available depends on the period of time studied
- Y5 - I can give some reasons for some important historical events

### What should I already know?

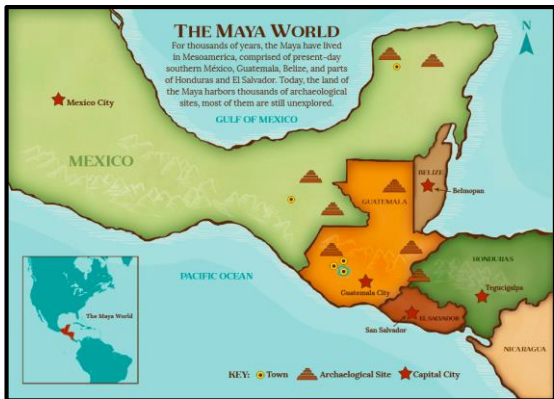
- South America is a continent.
- The climate of South America is different to that of the UK.
- Human and physical geographical features of a region in South America.
- Other civilisations include the Egyptians and the Greeks.
- What erosion is and what impact it can have on land.
- The chronology of British history.

### Key vocabulary

- archaeologist** - someone who studies the past by exploring old remains
- architecture** - the art of planning, designing and constructing buildings
- chronology** - the order of events in time
- circa** - Latin meaning 'around'. c. 800 BC means around 800 BC.
- civilisation** - a human society with its own social organisation and culture.
- climate** - the general weather conditions that are typical of a place
- continent** - a very large area of land that consists of many countries. South America is a continent.
- culture** - activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation
- deforestation** - if an area is deforested, all the trees there are cut down
- deities** - a god or goddess
- demise** - something or someone is their end or death
- drought** - a long period of time during which no rain falls.
- economy** - the wealth that a society or country gets from business and industry
- erosion** - the gradual destruction and removal of rock or soil
- fertile** - rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants
- hierarchy** - a system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance
- indigenous** - people or things belong to the country in which they are found
- Mayan** - of, relating to, or characteristic of the Maya or any of their languages
- merchant** - a person who buys or sells goods in large quantities
- polytheists** - the worship of or belief in more than one god
- society** - people in general, thought of as a large organized group
- trade** - the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services

### Knowledge:

- Mayan cities had similar layouts to each other. They would have a palace for the ruler, a plaza for the marketplaces and temples, in the form of pyramids.
- Mayan cities were often found near trade routes and good farmland.
- Mayans were polytheists, believing in many nature gods or deities.
- Priests were considered the most important people in the Mayan culture. Warriors, craftsmen and traders were next in the hierarchy. Farmers, workers and slaves were at the bottom of the hierarchy.
- Mayan merchants traded many goods including salt, cotton, honey and jade.
- The Mayan calendar (Tzolkin) consisted of 260 days and 13 months.
- The demise of the Mayan civilisation came about because of a mixture of deforestation, land erosion and drought.



1,100BC-The first 'Mayan' settlements begin to appear in Mesoamerica along the Pacific coast.

700BC-Mayan writing begins to develop through the form of hieroglyphs.

600AD-The Mayan population exceeded 5,000,000 people. Excessive farming and deforestation due to overflow from the cities were commonplace and this led to land becoming less fertile.

900AD-Many Mayan cities are deserted due to deforestation, drought and war.

800BC-Instead of foraging, maize farming begins and trade between villages begins.

100BC-450AD-Maya constructs its first pyramids and developing cities. They had many monuments, pyramids and devised a writing and maths.

840AD-The quality of the fields is poor, and this combined with land erosion, leads to a drought.

Today-There are still 7 million indigenous Mayan people living in Central America.

What does the word Mesoamerica mean?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
South America		
North America		
Central America		
Argentina		

Deforestation led to the demise of the Maya people. Why?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
The land became less fertile		
There was nowhere for the animals to live		
It caused pollution		

Mayan cities were very similar - they usually contained...	Start of unit:	End of unit:
A marketplace		
A palace		
A temple		
A plaza		

Give an example of how we know the Mayans existed.	Start of unit:	End of unit:

Order these people where they would appear in Mayan hierarchy - Number 1-4	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Warrior		
Farmer		
Priest		
Slave		

Mayan cities thrived because they were located near... (Tick two)	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Trade routes		
Monuments		
Temples		
Fertile farmland		

The height of the Mayan civilisation was c. AD 600. This was around the same time as the ----- in Britain.	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Stone Age		
Iron Age		
Roman invasion		
The spread of Christianity		

A person who believes in many gods is called...	Start of unit:	End of unit:
An atheist		
A polytheist		
An agnostic		
A druid		

The Mayans exchanged goods between cities. This is called...	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Buying		
Trade		
Selling		
Stealing		

Drought means...	Start of unit:	End of unit: