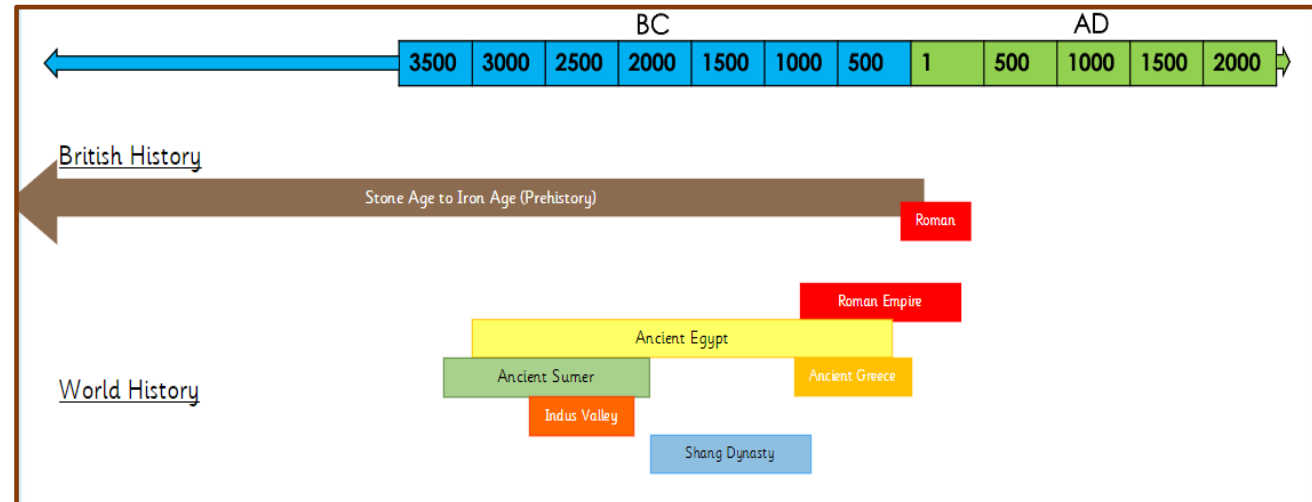


Y3 History: How does the Ancient Maya Civilisation compare to periods of History already studied

Prior Learning

- I understand what is meant by prehistoric, BC / BCE and AD / CE.
- Name key events from the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age.
- I can describe the way people lived during these periods of time.
- I can suggest reasons why the way people lived during these periods changed over time.
- A civilisation was an 'advanced' human society, organised into a large settlement (cities).
- Ancient Egypt was split into the old, middle and new kingdoms, ruled by dynasties of pharaohs.
- I can describe how Ancient Egyptians used the Nile for farming
- I can talk about how society was organised and the roles of each rank in the ancient Egyptian civilisation
- I know the importance of writing and the role of scribes in early civilisations
- I can discuss Ancient Egyptian gods, goddess and beliefs/ rituals of the afterlife



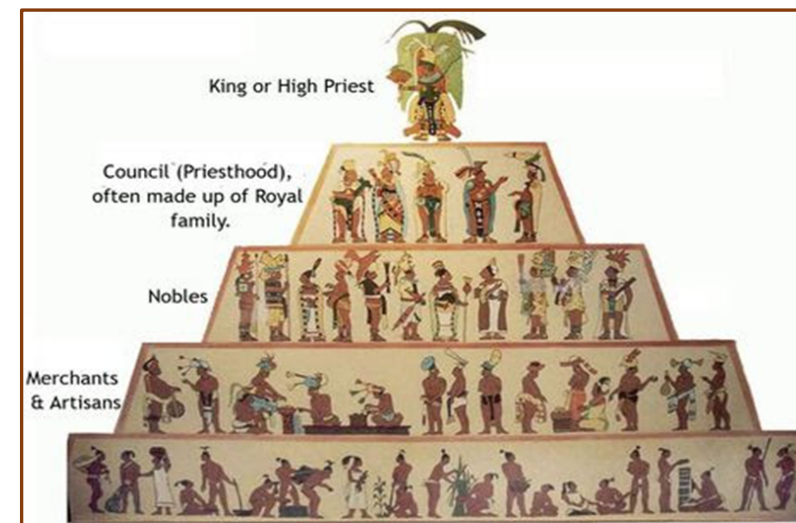
Key Knowledge

Ancient Maya Society

- The Mayan civilisation began c.2000BCE, during Bronze Age Britain and the height of the Egyptian civilisation, continuing until the time of Columbus.
- The Maya lived in modern-day central America.
- Mayan society was organised into city states, which had their own king, and into a hierarchy.
- Children of nobles went to school to learn maths, science, medicine and writing.
- The Maya built raised roads, palaces and temples from stone.
- Ordinary homes were made using wattle and daub, similar to those built in Neolithic Britain.
- The Maya believed in many gods, each representing a different part of everyday life.
- Mayans were the first people to grow the cocoa plant for food; they believed it was a gift from the gods.
- They were hunter-gathers and farmers, growing maize to eat, and cotton to weave into cloth.
- Much of the work was done with stone/wooden tools.

Historical Enquiry

- I can compare the Ancient Maya civilisation to periods of history already studied.



Key Vocabulary: Glossary

abandoned	left or deserted
artefact	an object made by a human being of interest
agriculture	The practise of farming crops or animals
astronomy	the study of the moon, planets and sun
Cacao beans	the dried seed from the cacao tree
calendar	a chart showing the days, weeks and months of a year
city states	independent centres of population
civilisation	a human society with its own culture, including a system of writing.
codex	folding books written in Maya hieroglyphs
hierarchy	A system in which society is ranked by status
maize	a cereal plant that yields large grains on a cob
Mesoamerica	Mexico and part of central America
monument	a statue or building to commemorate a building or event
sacrifice	the ritual of offering nourishment to the Gods and Goddesses
scribe	a person who produce/ copies documents in writing
Stepped pyramid	a monumental structure with a square or triangular base and sloping sides that meet in a point at the top. Usually built out of stone
temple	a place were important ceremonies and sacrifice took place
worship	to show adoration to a deity

Key Gods and Goddesses



Ek Chuaj



Kukulcan



Ix Chel



Yumil Kaxob



Chac



Ah Puch



Kinich Ahau

Ancient Maya Civilisation Map

The ancient Maya civilisation existed in Central America, in an area that today includes Mexico (Yucatan Peninsula), Guatemala, Belize and parts of Honduras and El Salvador. This map shows some of the monuments from ancient Maya cities that are still visible today.

Uxmal

One of the monuments here is a tall pyramid called the 'Pyramid of the Magician'.



Chichén Itzá

The name means 'at the brim of the well where the wise men of the water live' in one of the Mayan languages. Did you know that the monuments here are not purely influenced by the Maya, but also by the Toltecs (another ancient civilisation)?



Palenque

One of the monuments here is the 'Temple of the Inscriptions'. Inside is an elaborate tomb for King Pacal, who was a Maya king for 68 years.



Tulum

This is one of the only walled cities built by the Maya.



Tikal

This city was occupied by the Maya for more than 1500 years. The ruins here have been named a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Copán

One of the most incredible ruins here is the 'Hieroglyphic Stairway': a staircase leading to a temple, which has over 1000 hieroglyphs carved into it.



Key Terms

Central America	a subregion of North America. Its political boundaries are defined as bordering Mexico to the north, Colombia to the south, the Caribbean Sea to the east, and the Pacific Ocean to the west
Southern Mexico	A southern area of Mexico with indigenous ancestors
Chichen Itza	A vibrant city in the time of the ancient Maya. Today it is home to many ancient Maya structures.
The temple of the Great Jaguar	A limestone, stepped pyramid structure dated from 732 AD. Named because of a lintel that represents a king on a jaguar throne.
Pakal the Great	The leader/ king of the ancient maya city Palenque.
Spanish conquistadores	A conqueror. Any of the leaders of the Spanish conquest of America.
Important Cities: Palenque, Calakmul, Tikal, Cobá and Chichen Itza	