




Leamington Primary History Knowledge Organiser Year 6 – Ancient Maya



What I should already know	What I will learn	Important words to help me. (vocabulary)	Skills and Research																																								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient Egyptian period was from 3100 BC to 332BC. • Ancient Egyptians had a writing system using hieroglyphics. • Ancient Egyptians built pyramids that were sacred tombs. • Ancient Greek period was 800BC to 31 BC. • Roman period was 800BC to 500 AD. 	<p><u>Who were the Mayans and where did they live?</u> The ancient Mayans lived in what is now known as southern Mexico and northern Central America including Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, Yucatán Peninsula and El Salvador. Their descendants still live there today, and many of them speak the Mayan languages.</p> <p><u>Who were the Mayans and were they an advanced civilisation?</u> The Ancient Mayans were the longest standing civilisation around for over 3000 years. They developed an advanced number system and writing system.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Mesoamerica</td> <td>A historical region and cultural area in North America. It extends from approximately central Mexico through Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Civilisation</td> <td>An advanced organisation of people who live in a town.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hieroglyphics</td> <td>Writing consisting of symbols or pictures.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pyramids</td> <td>a monumental structure with a square or triangular base and sloping sides that meet in a point at the top</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rituals</td> <td>A religious or solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a set order.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sacrifice</td> <td>An act of slaughtering an animal or person or surrendering a possession as an offering to a deity (ruler or god)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Settlements</td> <td>a place, typically one which has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chronological</td> <td>following the order in which they occurred - 'in time order'</td> </tr> </table>	Mesoamerica	A historical region and cultural area in North America. It extends from approximately central Mexico through Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica	Civilisation	An advanced organisation of people who live in a town.	Hieroglyphics	Writing consisting of symbols or pictures.	Pyramids	a monumental structure with a square or triangular base and sloping sides that meet in a point at the top	Rituals	A religious or solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a set order.	Sacrifice	An act of slaughtering an animal or person or surrendering a possession as an offering to a deity (ruler or god)	Settlements	a place, typically one which has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community	Chronological	following the order in which they occurred - 'in time order'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place the Mayans on a timeline showing other ancient civilisations. • Pose questions about similarities and differences between the ancient Maya and other ancient civilisations and research to find the answers. • Research other ancient civilisations around at the same time as the Mayans such as: the Ancient Sumer, the Shang Dynasty and the Indus Valley. 																								
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<p>Interesting Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayans were one of the first people to use the symbol for zero. • Nobelswomen in the Mayan culture used to have their teeth filed and shaped into points. • Mayans were literate people and they came up with their own writing system which was one of the most complex writing systems to have ever existed on this planet. 	<p><u>What was life like for the Ancient Maya?</u> Mayan adults worked as farmers, warriors, hunters, builders, teachers and many other things. Children from noble families could learn maths, science, writing and astronomy, but poorer children were only taught their parents' jobs.</p> <p><u>What do we know of the rituals carried out by the Ancient Mayan civilisation?</u> Mayans engaged in many rituals, one being the game of Pok-a-tok (a ball game) but the main ritual being sacrificial, following their religion, worshipping many gods.</p> <p><u>What caused the Mayan Civilisation to disappear?</u> Scholars have suggested a number of potential reasons for the downfall of Maya civilization in the southern lowlands, including overpopulation, environmental degradation, warfare, shifting trade routes and extended drought. ... What is certain is that the Mayans didn't disappear in the aftermath of the collapse.</p>	 <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>0</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>•</td> <td>••</td> <td>•••</td> <td>••••</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>—</td> <td>•</td> <td>••</td> <td>•••</td> <td>••••</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>—</td> <td>•</td> <td>••</td> <td>•••</td> <td>••••</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>—</td> <td>•</td> <td>••</td> <td>•••</td> <td>••••</td> </tr> </table>	0	1	2	3	4		•	••	•••	••••	5	6	7	8	9	—	•	••	•••	••••	10	11	12	13	14	—	•	••	•••	••••	15	16	17	18	19	—	•	••	•••	••••	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use: http://www.mayankids.com/timeline2.htm to create a timeline of key events that occurred during the time of the Mayan civilisation. • Visit a local museum to view Mayan artefacts and make comparisons to other ancient civilisations.
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