



History: Mayan Civilisation

Year 4

Key vocabulary

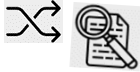
Maya	the collective noun for the Mayan people
Mesoamerica	the region in which the Maya lived, spanning Mexico and parts of South America
maize	corn- a major source of food for Mayan people
sacrifice 	the slaughtering of an animal or human as an offering to please the gods
Codices 	a folded book made of animal skin or the soft inner part of bark in which the Maya people wrote stories using hieroglyphs



Macro study: Mayan Civilisation

Micro study: Comparison with Britain at the time of Anglo Saxons

Key knowledge

The Maya were the first Mesoamerican civilization to develop writing, using hieroglyphs. 

The Maya were more advanced than Britain at the time:
They also developed a complex number system using pebbles, sticks and shells.

The Maya observed the movement of the sun, moon and stars to create calendars

Without the use of metal tools, wheels or domesticated animals they were able to build spectacular temples and pyramids 

The Maya civilization consisted of a large number of city-states.

Each city-state had its own independent government. A city-state was made up of a major city and the surrounding areas which sometimes included some smaller settlements and cities.

Each city state was ruled by a king who the Maya believed that their king was given the right to rule by the gods.

There were also powerful councils of leaders who ran the government, chosen from the class of nobles. Because religion was an important part of the Maya life, the priests were powerful figures in the government as well.

Chronology

1100 BC - The first Mayan settlements began to appear in Mesoamerica along the pacific coast

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

700 BC Mayan writing began to develop through the form of hieroglyphs

100 BC - 450 AD Mayans constructed their first pyramids develop cities including Tikal

638 AD Pakal the Great (King of Palenque) died. His death mask was made of jade.

800 - 900 AD Mayan civilization declined

We are building our knowledge of the Romans in Britain (Y3)

This will help us with our understanding of Ancient Greece (Y5)

