

The Mayans

The Maya civilisation began long ago in a place called '**Mesoamerica**'. This huge area is made up of Mexico and part of Central America.

The Mayans built amazing cities like **Tikal** (which they called 'Yax Mutal') and **Palenque**. Even though they lived in different cities, ruled by different kings and queens, the Mayans shared a lot of common beliefs and traditions.

They were experts at reading the stars and even built their cities as a map of the sky! They were also inspired by the creatures of the forest and shared many legends about animals, plants and nature spirits.

Key Dates/Events	Key People
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayan period ran from 2000BC to 1697AD • 700BC – writing developed in Mayan Civilisation • 400BC – Earliest calendars carved in stone • 300BC – hierarchical society of kings and nobles • 500AD – Tikal – first Mayan great city 600AD Chichen Itza developed • 683AD – The emperor Pakal dies • 1244AD - Chichen Itza was abandoned • 1839 – Stephens and Catherwood discovered the ruins 	<p>Gods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chac – Rainmaker God • Ah Bolon Tzacab – God of Farming • It Zamna – Creator God • Ah K'in – God of the Sun and controlled drought and disease • Buluc Chabten – God of war, violence and sudden death (including sacrifices) • John Lloyd Stephens (explorer) and Fredrick Catherwood (artist) <p>Hierarchy of roles within society:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King (Pakal the Great – period of significant expansion under his rule) • Royal Family and leaders • Astronomers and mathematicians • Farmers and scholars • Slaves

Key Vocabulary

advance - move forwards in a purposeful way.

barrier - a fence or other obstacle that prevents movement or access.

belief - an acceptance that something exists or is true, especially one without proof.

civilisation - the stage of human social and cultural development and organization that is considered most advanced.

consequence - a result or effect, typically one that is unwelcome or unpleasant.

contribute - give (something, especially money) in order to help achieve or provide something.

develop - grow or cause to grow and become more mature, advanced, or elaborate.

method - a particular procedure for accomplishing or approaching something, especially a systematic or established one.

observation - the action or process of closely observing or monitoring something or someone.

overcome - succeed in dealing with (a problem or difficulty).

pattern - a repeated decorative design.

prediction - a thing predicted; a forecast.

relationship - the way in which two or more people or things are connected, or the state of being connected.

represent - be entitled or appointed to act or speak for (someone), especially in an official capacity.

solution - a means of solving a problem or dealing with a difficult situation.

success - the accomplishment of an aim or purpose.

technique - a way of carrying out a particular task, especially the execution or performance of an artistic work or a scientific procedure.

Prior Learning

Year 1:

> The History of Transport (Quest for Knowledge)

Year 2:

> Comparison of Explorers (Quest from Knowledge)

Year 3:

> Ancient Egypt (Comparison to other Ancient Civilisations)

> Ancient Greeks (Comparison to other Ancient Civilisations)

Following on:

Year 5:

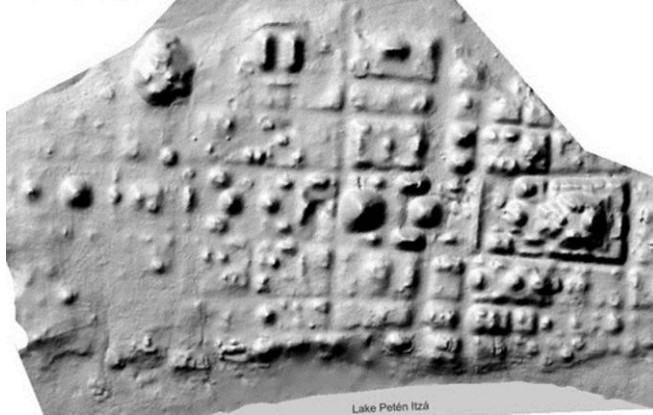
> Medieval Britain- The Impact of Increasing Populations.

Year 6:

> Victorians (Improvements in technology- industrial revolution)

Mayan Communities

The temple was the centre point to Mayan communities (Rule of Law). Their society was built on a grid system.



Mayan Farming

The Mayans lived in inhospitable areas – mountainous, rainforests and suffered periods of drought. They developed new farming techniques to be able to control the land.

