

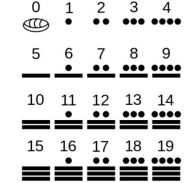
History- Maya civilisation

Year 6

I already know

Time - significant dates and events in British history.	People and power -the impact of other early civilisations on Britain.	Conflict -the effect of Viking raids and invasions on England.	Society -the achievements of other early civilisations	How artefacts help us learn about the past.
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Key Vocabulary

civilisation	A human society with its own political organisation and culture.	drought	Period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water.
artefact	An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.	Mesoamerica	The region where the Maya lived which today includes Guatemala, Belize, the Yucatán peninsula (Mexico) and the western portions of Honduras and El Salvador.
cacao	These are beans which come from cacao trees. The trees sprout pods directly from their trunks, which are used to make chocolate.	sacrifice	The slaughtering of an animal or human as an offering to please a god or gods.
city-state	An independent city with a king. A city-state is not in a state or a country. The Mayans civilization did not have one central government. It was made of independent city-states.	vigesimal number system	The Maya number system was based on the number 20. 

Key Knowledge

We study the Maya civilisation because they created an incredible civilisation in the rainforest of Mesoamerica over 2000 years ago.



The Maya empire grew from 2000 BC onwards because they were able to create cities in the rainforest, they were successful farmers, mathematicians, artists, writers, astronomers and chocolate makers.

The ancient Maya saw the universe as being made up of three parts – the earth, the sky and the underworld (Xibalba). The earth is often seen as a turtle or a caiman (type of alligator) floating in the sea. They worshipped around 12 different Gods.

Adults worked as farmers, warriors, hunters, builders and teachers. They ate maize, beans and squash along with turkey, deer, rabbit, tomatoes, avocado and other fruits. They would trade with other people along the coast for fish and seafood.

The Maya empire declined quickly and their city states were abandoned around 900 AD. This could have been caused by disease, drought, war or a natural disaster.

Information about the Maya civilisation comes from artefacts that have been found. John Stephens (an American diplomat) and Frederick Catherwood (British artist and architect), were the people that who brought the Maya to popular attention.

The Maya believed that they had to offer blood sacrifices to the gods. They believed that if they didn't, the Sun wouldn't rise and the world would end.