



Year 6 Spring 1: The Maya

Vocabulary

Peninsula	An area of land which is surrounded by sea of 3 sides. The Yucatan peninsula is where the Maya lived.
Mexico	A country in Central America where lots of Mayan temples can be found. Chichen Itza is an example of this.
Maya	American Indian natives who lived in Mexico and Belize. They lasted from 2000BC to 1600AD.
Descendant	A person who lives after you, such as your child.
Conquistadores	A group of Spanish armed men who took over the Mayan empire. They were led by Hernan Cortes (a Spanish explorer).
Hierarchy	The order of power in a country or society.
Noble	A powerful, well-respected person who is close to the king or queen.
Monarchy	The head of state, being a king or queen.
Trade	Swapping items of similar value. This is where the idea of 'buying' came from.
Sacrifice	An offering to the gods. This was often done by sacrificing people.
Artisan	Making things by hand.
Astronomy	The study of Space.

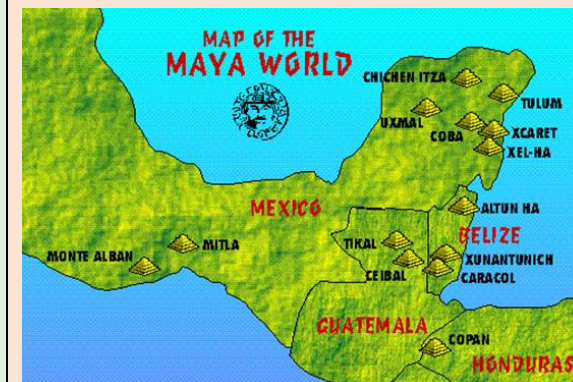


Need to know knowledge:

- 1) Know that the Maya civilisation started around 2000BC and ended around 1600AD.
- 2) Know that the Maya lived in Central America in these countries and locate them on a map:
 - Mexico
 - Belize
 - Honduras
 - Guatemala
- 3) Know that the Maya had an 'absolute' monarchy. This meant that the King did not have to follow the laws and holds all power.
- 4) Know that the Mayan maths system helped create their Mayan calendar.
- 5) Know that the Maya believed in many gods and Itzamna was the leader god.
- 6) Know that the Maya created their own system of writing called hieroglyphics.



Nice to know knowledge:



Timeline	
The Preclassic Period (1800BC to 250 AD)	Great growth of the Maya. Small villages evolved into cities. Hierarchy began to emerge.
Classic Period (250-1000 AD)	Mayan culture flourished. City states began to take over smaller neighbouring cities.
Post Classic Maya (1000 AD onwards)	City of Chichen Itza became very powerful with strong economy and military powers.
Spanish Arrive (1500s)	Ships with Spanish explorers arrive. Brought diseases with them which killed many Mayans.
Hernan Cortes (1519)	A Spanish explorer who conquered the Maya and began to remove Mayan Culture.
BC stands for Before Christ.	
AD stands for 'Anno Domini', which means 'the year of our Lord' in Latin. AD dates indicate the number of years or centuries that have passed since the year in which Jesus Christ is believed to have been born	
Items Traded	
Food :	Corn, maize, fish, squash, potatoes, honey, beans, turkey, fruits and chocolate drinks.
Materials:	Limestone, marble, jade, wood, copper and gold.
Goods:	Paper books, furniture, jewellery, clothing, toys and weapons.

