

Year group: 6

Term: Autumn

History:  
Mayans



National Curriculum: The achievements of the earliest civilizations – an overview of where and when the first civilizations appeared.

### What I should already know:

Y3 History (The Romans in Britain); Y5 History (Ancient Egypt).

### Key Knowledge and skills

Know the origins of Mayan civilisation e.g most of Central America and the south-eastern part of Mexico were covered by the Mayan civilisation. The main period of Mayan civilisation was known as the 'classical' period.

Know the structure of the main Mayan cities e.g City states started to develop in around 100BC.

Know how a city state support itself as it expanded e.g farming and urbanisation.

Know some of the key beliefs of classical Mayan civilisation.

Consider some of the advanced Mayan culture including Hieroglyphs, codices and architecture.

Know that mathematics and astronomy were very important in Mayan civilisation.

The Mayan classical period ended in approximately 900AD, Consider some of the possible reasons why.

### Timeline of Events

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 2000BC    | The Mayan civilisation emerges in Central America.   |
| c. 100BCE | First city states appear and hierarchy emerges.  |
| c. 250CE  | The 'classical' period begins, urbanisation begins - city states began to take over smaller neighbouring cities.                         |
| c. 300CE  | Mayan settlements become centres for trade across the region. Good such as stone and chocolate are traded with neighbouring city states. |
| c. 600CE  | Mayan settlements support an increasing population, growing at a fast rate due to plentiful food supply.                                 |
| c. 650CE  | Caracol, one of the main Mayan cities is increasingly populated and expands over a large area becoming an important centre.              |
| c. 900CE  | Mayan centres become less important, perhaps because of a widespread drought, but no clear reason has yet emerged.                       |
| 1500CE    | Ships with Spanish explorers arrive. They brought diseases with them which killed many Mayans.   |
| 1519CE    | Hernan Cortes - A Spanish explorer. Conquered the Mayans and began to remove Mayan culture.  |

**Key Questions**  
Can you tell me where Mayan civilization settled?  
Why is it important to learn about the civilisations of the past? What can we learn from how people used to live to help us live better lives today?

### Vocabulary

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Priest       | Held the regular rituals surrounding the temple possibly including sacrifice.   |
| Pharmacist   | Provided natural medicines which kept the people very healthy.  |
| Farmer       | Irrigated fields and provided food for the city   |
| Astronomy    | Very accurate charts of the moon.   |
| Codices      | Ancient writing collected in the form of a book. The word codices is the plural of the noun codex.                                |
| Conquistador | A group of Spanish people, led by Hernan Cortes, who conquered the Mayans and Aztecs in 1519.                                     |
| Culture      | The ideas, customs and behaviour of a civilisation. Mayan culture used ideas from many sources.                                   |
| Ahau or Ahaw | The main king or lord of a <b>Maya</b> city-state.  |
| Batab        | A lesser lord, usually ruling over a small town.  |
| Cacao        | Seeds that the <b>Maya</b> used to make chocolate.  |
| cenote       | A sinkhole or pit filled with water, cenotes were sources of water for the <b>Maya</b> and were also used as places of sacrifice. |
| Mesoamerican | The area on the continent of North America that is made up of what is known as Mexico and Central America today.                  |
| Aztecs       | A Mesoamerican civilisation that existed in the second millennium AD.   |



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