

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); Y4 - Stone Age to Iron Age.

### 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. Goods 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.



now > press > play



**PAST** ←

- Stone Age 15000BCE
- Bronze Age 2200BCE
- Iron Age 800BCE
- Ancient Mayans 100BCE
- Roman Empire 43AD
- Anglo Saxons 449AD
- Vikings 793AD
- Tudors 1485A
- Great Fire 1666AD
- Industrial Revolution I 760AD
- Victorians 1819AD
- World War One 1914-1918
- World War Two 1939-1945
- The Moon Landing
- Hurd Hill Primary School 1987
- NEW MILLENNIUM 2000
- BARACK OBAMA 2004
- WORLD CUP BRITAIN 2011
- LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES 2012
- PRESENT