Hopton Primary School

Knowledge Organiser for KS2 Year 5 Topic: History - Mayans

Key facts:

Key Events	
2000 BC	The Maya civilisation comes into being in Central America.
300 BC	Cities, such as El Mirador, become large and powerful.
AD 900	Cities in the rainforest are abandoned due to an extensive drought. People move north to the highlands of Guatemala and the Yucatán.
AD 1000	Cities like Chichén Itzá (which has two temple pyramids) are still thriving.
AD 1500s	The Spanish arrive in South America and set out to destroy the remaining elements of Maya civilisation as part of their conquest.
AD 1839	American explorer and writer, John Lloyd Stephens, and British artist, Frederick Catherwood explore Copán and extensively document what they find, reigniting interest in the Maya civilisation. They go on to document other Maya cities, including Chichén Itzá.
AD 2014	The cities of Lagunita and Tamchén are rediscovered.

Important questions:

What influence did the Mayan civilization have on our society?
What is the importance of the Mayan culture?
What elements are the same between the Mayan culture and our culture?

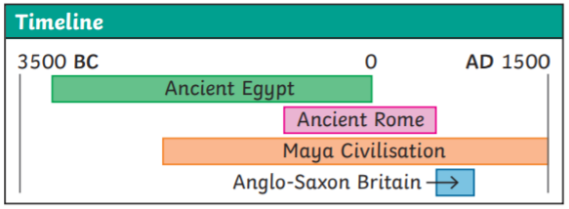
Key skills for you to practice:

Researching information
Investigating different sources
Describing different sources and artefacts
Using timelines and ordering dates
Comparing cultures and sources.

What do we need to learn?

Who the Mayan were and what impact they had on history.
To find out Mayan Gods and religions.
To learn about the Mayan number system.
To learn about Mayan explorations and discoveries.
To learn Mayan writing and food.

Key Images to discuss



What I should already know:

Year 3	Ancient Egyptians
Year 4	Ancient Rome

Links to Future Learning:

Year 6	Ancient Greece

Key Vocabulary:

Word	What does it mean?
Civilisation	An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time
Drought	A long period with very little rain.
Ritual	A ceremony, often religious, with set actions performed in a set order.
Jaguar	A big cat, heavier than a leopard, with yellowish fur and black spots.
Codices	Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.
Maize	Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough
Cacao Beans	Cacao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When they are ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans.