

What we already know:

- South America is a continent.
- The climate of South America is different to that of the UK.
- Human and physical geographical features of a region in South America.
- Other civilisations include the Egyptians and the Greeks.
- What erosion is and what impact it can have on land.
- The chronology of British history.

Year 6 – The Maya

What's next?

- Describe how the Mayan civilisation has had an impact on modern society.
- Examine the timeline of the Mayan civilisation and consider where there was rapid change and where there was very little change. Explain why this may be the case.
- Compare what was happening in the Mayan civilisation with what was happening in Britain at the same time.
- Place the chronology of key events of the Mayan civilisation on a timeline with a chronology of the history of Britain. Where are the overlaps?
- Describe the ideas, beliefs and attitudes of all groups of people in the Mayan civilisation.
- Use appropriate vocabulary to communicate about the Maya.

Chronology: c. AD 250: By this stage, the Maya had many monuments, pyramids and used writing and maths. c. AD 600: The Mayan population exceeded 5,000,000 people. Excessive farming and deforestation due to overflow from the cities led land to becoming less fertile. c. AD 840: Less fertile land causes drought. c. AD 900: Many Mayan cities are deserted due to drought, war and deforestation.

| Story of Britain | Society and Government | Economy and Trade | Beliefs | Vocab |
|--|--|-------------------|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient Mayan civilisation emerged around 2600BCE making them contemporaries of the Ancient Egyptians although the two civilisations would not have known anything about each other. The high point of Mayan civilisation was around 900AD (much later than the Egyptians) but gradually declined until 1250CE when the main city, Chichen Itza was abandoned. • Mayan civilisation was largely unknown until Catherwood and Stephens expedition of 1839 (see Progression Doc) – the Spanish invaders of the 16th century destroyed much of what we might have known as they believed it to be evil. • The geography of the Yucatan peninsula was a major factor in the way Mayan society developed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like many other ancient civilisations, the Mayans were polytheistic and believes the gods controlled all aspects of life. In Mayan society this was even more important than in other aspects of life – it influenced their amazing mathematical achievements (pg. 8), the way they organised their calendar (pg.6/7) and even their sports (pg. 9) • The important gods were: Itzamma, Kukulkan, Bolon Tzacab and Chaac. (pg 4/5). • Human sacrifice was a major part of Mayan religion – this was to please the gods but Mayans believed that it also enabled the person to continue their journey in the next life. • The pyramid temples were built to please the gods – there were two main types (pg 5) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like many other ancient civilisations, the Mayans were polytheistic and believes the gods controlled all aspects of life. In Mayan society this was even more important than in other aspects of life – it influenced their amazing mathematical achievements (pg. 8), the way they organised their calendar (pg.6/7) and even their sports (pg. 9) • The important gods were: Itzamma, Kukulkan, Bolon Tzacab and Chaac. (pg 4/5). • Human sacrifice was a major part of Mayan religion – this was to please the gods but Mayans believed that it also enabled the person to continue their journey in the next life. • The pyramid temples were built to please the gods – there were two main types (pg 5) | Tier One |
| | | | | Tier Two |
| | | | | archaeologist, architecture, chronology, civilisation, climate, continent, culture, deforestation, demise, drought, economy, erosion, fertile, indigenous, merchant, society trade |
| | | | | Tier Three |
| | | | | Mesoamerica, plaza, polytheists, hierarchy, circa Chichen Itza, Mayan, deities |