

St Luke's Knowledge Organiser



History - Year 5 - Mayan Civilisation

What I should already know

Ancient Egypt and the Romans
 Stone Age to Iron Age Britain
 The Anglo Saxons and Vikings
 Christopher Columbus discovered America in 15th Century



Sticky Knowledge

- ◆ The Mayan civilisation began in 2000BC in Central America and is one of the longest lasting civilisations.
- ◆ The Mayan temple was the focal point of a settlement and the priests were powerful. Mayan religion was bloodthirsty, demanding human sacrifices.
- ◆ Mayans used stone tools to carve the limestone that they used for their buildings.
- ◆ The Mayans were expert mathematicians and astronomers and used this expertise to make calendars.
- ◆ The Mayan people mainly ate maize. They believed the first humans were made from maize. The cacao beans were used to make a rich drink and for medicine.
- ◆ The Mayan writing system was made up of many different symbols called glyphs.
- ◆ The Mayans developed an advanced number system, using 0 as a placeholder.
- ◆ Mayan society was formed of a number of city states each with their own ruler.

Vocabulary

glyphs	Symbols used in the Mayan writing system. Each symbol represents a word or sound.
codices	Books created by the Mayans. They were made of soft bark and folded like a fan.
civilisation	A society with well developed rules and government.
cacao	Seeds that the Maya used to make chocolate.
maize	Another word for sweetcorn. Can be used to make dough and tortillas.
huipil	A traditional garment worn by Maya women.
Kin	Word representing a day in the Maya calendar.
Uinal	Word for a month in the Maya calendar. It was 20 days long.

Historical skills

To use historical vocabulary related to the time studied.
 To compare and contrast the time studied with those previously studied.
 Place the time studied and previously studied on a timeline.
 Select and organise relevant historical information.
 Answer questions about cause and consequence, similarity and difference, continuity and change

Timeline

- ◆ 900 BC - First hunter gatherers settle on the Pacific coast.
- ◆ 800 BC - Village farming and trade becomes established.
- ◆ 700 BC - Mayan writing is developed in Mesoamerica.
- ◆ 400 BC - Earliest solar calendars are invented.
- ◆ 300 BC - The social structure adapts to include Kings.
- ◆ 100 BC - The first pyramids are built.
- ◆ 450 AD - Tikal dominates the Tropical lowland of central regions.
- ◆ 1502 AD - First contact with Europeans made.