

History Knowledge Organiser

The Maya

Phase 2

Main Foci: Civilisation

What should I already know?

- There are 7 continents
- The **climate** of South America is different to that of the UK.
- Other **civilisations** include the Saxons and Vikings.
- What **erosion** is and what impact it can have on land.
- The **chronology** of British history.

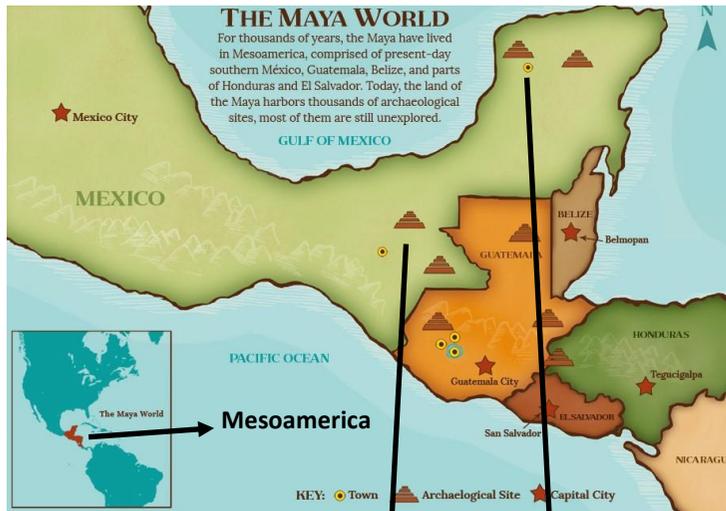


Vocabulary

archaeologist	someone who studies the past by exploring old remains
architecture	the art of planning, designing and constructing buildings
Chichen Itza	a village in Yucatán state in Mexico: site of important Mayan ruins. A UNESCO World Heritage Site
chronology	the order of events in time
circa	Latin meaning 'around'. c. 800 BC means around 800 BC.
civilisation	a human society with its own social organisation and culture .
climate	the general weather conditions that are typical of a place

Diagrams

Where did the Mayans live?



Famous **Mayan** cities include Palenque and **Chichen Itza**, which are found in Mexico.

Mayan Society

- **Mayan** cities had similar layouts to each other. They would have a palace for the ruler, a **plaza** for the marketplaces and temples, in the form of **pyramids**.
- **Mayan** cities were often found near **trade** routes and good farmland.
- Mayans were **polytheists**, believing in many nature gods or **deities**.
- Priests were considered the most important people in the **Mayan culture**. Warriors, craftsmen and **traders** were next in the **hierarchy**. Farmers, workers and slaves were at the bottom of the **hierarchy**.
- **Mayan merchants** traded many goods including salt, cotton, honey and jade.
- The **Mayan** calendar (Tzolkin) consisted of 260 days and 13 months.
- The **demise** of the **Mayan** civilisation came about because of a mixture of **deforestation**, land **erosion** and **drought**.

continent	a very large area of land that consists of many countries . South America is a continent .
culture	activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation
deforestation	if an area is deforested, all the trees there are cut down
deities	a god or goddess
demise	something or someone is their end or death
drought	a long period of time during which no rain falls.
economy	the wealth that a society or country gets from business and industry
erosion	the gradual destruction and removal of rock or soil
fertile	rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants
hierarchy	a system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance, for example in society
indigenous	people or things belong to the country in which they are found
Mayan	of, relating to, or characteristic of the Maya or any of their languages
merchant	a person who buys or sells goods in large quantities
Mesoamerica	Central America - the countries consist of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Belize; and the western sections of Honduras and Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica
plaza	an open square in a city.
polytheists	the worship of or belief in more than one god
society	people in general, thought of as a large organized group
trade	the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services

Procedural Knowledge

- Examine a variety of sources and use these to make inferences about the past - in particular about **Mayan economy**, **culture**, religious beliefs and **society**.
- 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 time line with a **chronology** of the history of Britain. Where are the overlaps?
- Compare the **Maya** with the Greek and Egyptian **civilisations** using a Venn diagram.
- Describe the ideas, beliefs and attitudes of all groups of people in the **Mayan civilisation**.
- Use appropriate vocabulary to communicate about the **Maya**.

Timeline

c. **AD 250**: By this stage, the **Maya** had many established cities. They had many monuments, pyramids and devised a writing and maths

c. **AD 840**: The quality of the fields is poor, and this combined with land **erosion**, leads to a **drought**.

Today...there are still 7 million **indigenous Mayan** people living in Central America.

c. **AD 600**: The **Mayan** population exceeded 5,000,000 people. Excessive farming and **deforestation** due to overflow from the cities were commonplace and this led to land becoming less **fertile**.

c. **AD 900**: Many **Mayan** cities are deserted due to **deforestation**, **drought** and war.

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Question 1: What does the word Mesoamerica mean?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
South America		
North America		
Central America		
Argentina		

Question 5: Mayan cities thrived because they were located near...(tick two)	Start of unit:	End of unit:
trade routes		
monuments		
temples		
fertile farmland		

Question 9: List 5 items that the Mayans traded for cocoa beans	Start of unit:	End of unit:

Question 2: Place these people in order of where they would appear in Mayan hierarchy (number 1-4)	Start of unit:	End of unit:
warriors		
farmers		
priests		
slaves		

Question 6: The Mayans exchanged goods between cities. This is called...	Start of unit:	End of unit:
buying		
trade		
selling		
stealing		

Question 10: List 5 foods that the Mayans consumed	Start of unit:	End of unit:

Question 3: A person who believes in many gods is called...	Start of unit:	End of unit:
an atheist		
a polytheist		
an agnostic		
a druid		

Question 7: What games did the Mayans play?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Chess		
Ludo		
Ball games		
Card games		

Question 4: What did Catherwood and Stephens discover?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Mayans		
Native American Indians		
Spanish Pirates		

Question 8: The height of the Mayan civilisation was around the same time as the ___ in Britain.	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Stone Age		
Iron Age		
Roman invasion		
Vikings		