

What will we be learning?

- **Substantive concepts** – Society (Civilisation); Economy and innovation (Discovery, invention and trade)
- **Disciplinary focus** – Cause and consequence
- Why did the Maya Civilisation rise and fall?
- Where and when did the Maya live?
- What were some of the major achievements of the Maya Civilisation?
- What did the Maya value the most?
- How do the Maya tie in/compare with other civilisations?
- How do we know about the Maya?

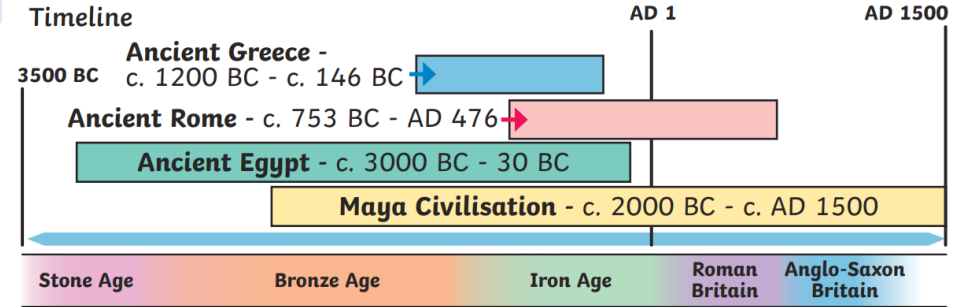
Key Dates

- **c. 2000 BC:** The Maya civilisation comes into being in Central America.
- **c. 300 BC:** Cities, such as El Mirador, become large and powerful.
- **AD 900:** Cities in the rainforest are abandoned due to a 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:** (16th century) 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 other cities including Chichén Itzá, reigniting interest in the Maya civilisation.
- **AD 2014:** The cities of Lagunita and Tamchén are rediscovered.

Key vocabulary

- **Civilisation:** A human society with well developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
- **Drought:** A long period of time with little or no rain
- **Jaguar:** A big cat, heavier than a leopard, with yellowish fur and black spots.
- **Scribes:** People trained to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write.
- **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 and baked into tortillas.
- **Cacao beans:** Cacao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When they are ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans, which can then be dried, roasted and ground.

Timeline



Maya Numbers

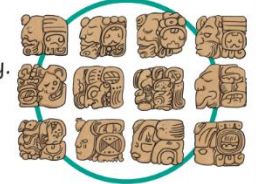
The Maya developed an advanced number system for their time. They were one of only two cultures in the world to develop the concept of zero as a placeholder. The number system used three symbols in different combinations.



The Maya built cities, pyramids and ornate sculptures in the rainforest.

Writing

The Maya writing system was used to write several different Maya languages. It was made up of many symbols called glyphs. Logograms are glyphs representing whole words. Syllabograms are glyphs representing units of sound (syllables). The glyphs were carved on stone buildings and monuments and painted on pottery. Maya scribes also wrote books called codices.



What I have learnt.

Blank space for student reflection.