



# Leamington Primary History Knowledge Organiser Year 6 – Ancient Maya



What I should already know	What I will learn	Important words to help me. (vocabulary)		Skills and Research
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancient Egyptian period was from 3100 BC to 332BC.</li> <li>• Ancient Egyptians had a writing system using hieroglyphics.</li> <li>• Ancient Egyptians built pyramids that were sacred tombs.</li> <li>• Ancient Greek period was 800BC to 31 BC.</li> <li>• Roman period was 800BC to 500 AD.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Who were the Mayans and where did they live?</u></b>            The ancient Mayans lived in what is now known as <b>southern Mexico</b> and northern Central America including <b>Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, Yucatán Peninsula and El Salvador</b>. Their descendants still live there today, and many of them speak the Mayan languages.</p> <p><b><u>Who were the Mayans and were they an advanced civilisation?</u></b>            The Ancient Mayans were the longest standing civilisation around for over 3000 years. They developed an advanced number system and writing system.</p>	BC and AD	BC means Before Christ; AD means 'Anno Domini' in Latin meaning in the year of the lord.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place the Mayans on a timeline showing other ancient civilisations.</li> <li>• Pose questions about similarities and differences between the ancient Maya and other ancient civilisations and research to find the answers.</li> <li>• Research other ancient civilisations around at the same time as the Mayans such as: the Ancient Sumer, the Shang Dynasty and the Indus Valley.</li> <li>• Use: <a href="http://www.mayankids.com/timeline2.htm">http://www.mayankids.com/timeline2.htm</a> to create a timeline of key events that occurred during the time of the Mayan civilisation.</li> <li>• Visit a local museum to view Mayan artefacts and make comparisons to other ancient civilisations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Interesting Facts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayans were one of the first people to use the symbol for zero.</li> <li>• Nobelwomen in the Mayan culture used to have their teeth filed and shaped into points.</li> <li>• Mayans were literate people and they came up with their own writing system which was one of the most complex writing systems to have ever existed on this planet.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>What was life like for the Ancient Maya?</u></b>            Mayan adults worked as <b>farmers, warriors, hunters, builders, teachers</b> and many other things. Children from noble families could learn maths, science, writing and astronomy, but poorer children were only taught their parents' jobs.</p>	Cenote	A sinkhole or pit filled with water, cenotes were sources of water for the Maya and were also used as places of sacrifice.	
	<p><b><u>What do we know of the rituals carried out by the Ancient Mayan civilisation?</u></b>            Mayans engaged in many rituals, one being the game of Pok-a-tok (a ball game) but the main ritual being sacrificial, following their religion, worshipping many gods.</p>	Centuries	A period of 100 years	
	<p><b><u>What caused the Mayan Civilisation to disappear?</u></b>            Scholars have suggested a number of potential <b>reasons</b> for the downfall of <b>Maya civilization</b> in the southern lowlands, including overpopulation, environmental degradation, warfare, shifting trade routes and extended drought. ... What is certain is that the <b>Mayans</b> didn't <b>disappear</b> in the aftermath of the collapse.</p>	Chronology	the arrangement of events or dates in the order they occurred.	
	Decades	A period of ten years		
	Duration	<b>The length of time something takes place for</b>		
	Sequence	a particular order in which related things follow each other.		
	Mesoamerica	A historical region and cultural area in North America. It extends from approximately central Mexico through Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica		
	Civilisation	An advanced organisation of people who live in a town.		
	Hieroglyphics	Writing consisting of symbols or pictures.		
	Pyramids	a monumental structure with a square or triangular base and sloping sides that meet in a point at the top		
	Rituals	<b>A religious or solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a set order.</b>		
	Sacrifice	<b>An act of slaughtering an animal or person or surrendering a possession as an offering to a deity (ruler or god)</b>		
	Settlements	<b>a place, typically one which has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community</b>		
	Vigesimal	relating to or based on the number twenty.		
Maya	An ancient civilisation which reached its peak between AD 300 and 900			
Mayans	a member of an American Indian people of Yucatan and Belize and Guatemala who had a culture characterized by outstanding architecture and pottery and astronomy			
Evidence	Evidence tends to prove or disprove something e.g. artefacts.			