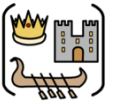


Year 6 Term 2

Why do historians remember the Maya?

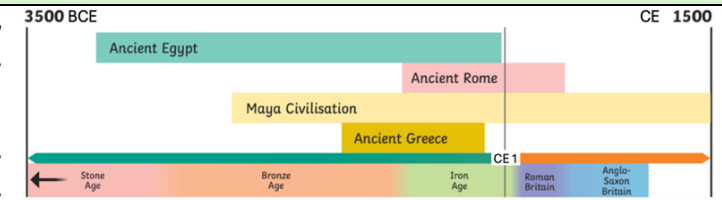


Key vocabulary	
civilisation	large group of people who share certain advanced ways of living and working
architecture	the art and science of designing and building buildings
pyramid	large 3D structure with triangular shaped sides that meet at a point
hieroglyphics	a system of ancient writing that uses pictures and symbols instead of letters
codex (1)/ codices (2+)	book/books made by the ancient Maya

Skills - We are historians	
1. Question the reliability of sources and be aware of bias	
2. Use a range of primary and secondary sources to find out about the past.	
3. Devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference and significance	

Key knowledge:

- Timeline The Maya were an ancient **civilisation** in Mesoamerica (Central America) that lasted over 3,000 years and were considered advanced due to their achievements.
- City states The Maya were organised into city-states, like the Ancient Greeks and each city was ruled by a king. There were hundreds of Maya cities at the peak of Mayan civilisation, filled with large stone structures.
- Religion The Maya believed that kings were given the right to rule by the gods and acted as a messenger between the gods and the people. The Maya worshipped multiple gods which represented different parts of life and nature, e.g. sun and night, like the Egyptians.
- Architecture Maya architecture is famous. Some palaces, pyramids, and other public buildings are still standing today. City states were filled with buildings covered with carvings and statues to honour gods and commemorate kings. The Maya built two types of similar-looking pyramids:
 - Temple pyramids with staircases and a temple at the top for religious ceremonies/sacrifices.
 - Sacred pyramids were not supposed to be climbed or touched - they were built as monuments for the gods.
- Technology The Maya used lunar (moon) and solar (sun) cycles, eclipses and movements of the planets to create calendars. They had two main calendars: the Tzolk'in calendar (260 days) used for religious ceremonies and festivals and the Haab calendar (365 days) used for tracking seasons and agriculture.
- Writing systems The Maya used hieroglyphics, similar in look to the Egyptians but very different. They used symbols to represent words, sounds, or objects. By putting glyphs together, the Maya wrote sentences, told stories and made books (codices) using paper made from bark or leather.
- Daily Maya life vs Anglo-Saxon



	Maya	Anglo-Saxon
Homes	Temples made from stone, but ordinary homes made from clay/ mud with thatched roofs. One room was shared.	Houses made from wood with thatched roofs. One room was shared.
Food/farming	They grew maize (to make food like tortillas), beans, squash, chilli peppers, avocados, cacao, and various fruits. Slash and burn techniques used in rainforest climate.	They grew barley, oats and wheat for food. Sheep were kept for their meat and wool. Cows and pigs were kept for milk and meat.
Clothing	Made from cotton with bright colours and intricate patterns. Dyes were made of insects, molluscs and plants.	Made from wool and linen with more subdued colours.