

Key Vocabulary

Chronology	The arrangement of dates or events in the order in which they occurred.
BC	Before Christ. A way of dating years before the birth of Jesus. The bigger the number BC, the longer ago in history it was.
AD	In the year of the Lord (from the Latin anno domini) AD is used to show dates after the birth of Jesus.
civilisation	A human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
Society	A community or group of people having common traditions and interests.
Archaeologist	A person who studies the buildings, graves, tools and other objects that belonged to people who lived in the past, in order to learn about their culture and society.
Historical evidence	Anything left over from the past is a source of evidence.
Primary source	A primary source of evidence is one that was created by someone who witnessed first-hand or was part of the historical events that are being described. The most common primary sources are journal entries or letters.
Theory	An explanation for why things work or how things happen.
Warfare	Military fighting between enemies.
Invasion	An act or instance of entering as an enemy, especially by an army
c. 2000 BC	(c. stands for circa, which means approximately) The Maya civilisation comes into being in Central America.

Key Aims

This unit explores who the Maya people were, when and where in the world they lived and the reasons why they were so successful. Moving on, we discover how we know about the Maya people, their beliefs and the hierarchy system that was in place in society and the important inventions that they made, especially in farming. We finish with a comparison between the Ancient Maya Civilisation and Anglo-Saxon Britain, with a focus on the similarities and differences between the Maya City States and the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms; drawing on the archaeological evidence available to us.

I will be able to:

Say where the ancient Maya people lived, naming some major features and cities in them.

Know some of the main Maya gods and what they represented.

Research and provide some of their own ideas about the significance of corn and chocolate.



Who were the Maya?

The ancient Maya people were quite a sophisticated bunch!

They developed a writing and number system; studied and charted the stars and planets; invented three complex calendars to keep track of time; built impressive temples, palaces, monuments and cities; skilfully farmed the land and established a complex political system.

The ancient Maya were a clever, deeply religious people who valued intelligence and learning. This helps to explain how and why they were able to develop a complex, thriving civilisation which began over 2000 years ago.

