



Y5 History Knowledge Organiser—Ancient Maya



Key Knowledge

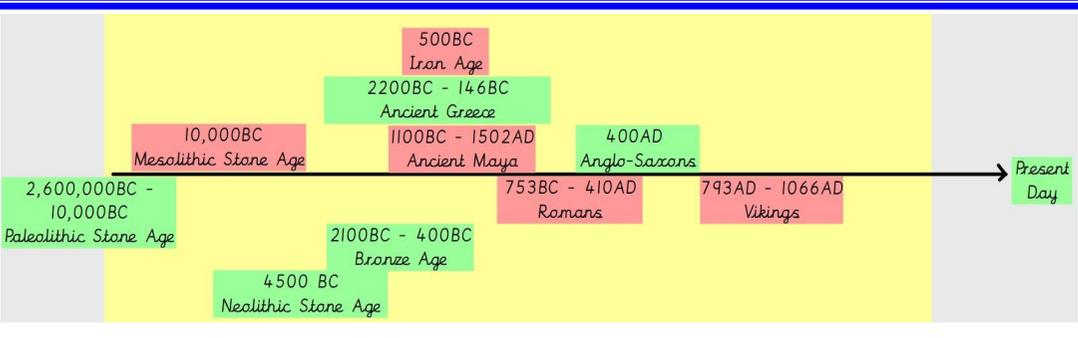
Learn these key facts

Conquest and the Empire

The Maya were established by 1100BC.

The Mayan civilisation was located largely in Guatemala, Belize and South East Mexico.

The civilisation was separated in to different groups that lived independently from one another like Greek city states.



Key Vocabulary

Understand these key words

Word

Definition

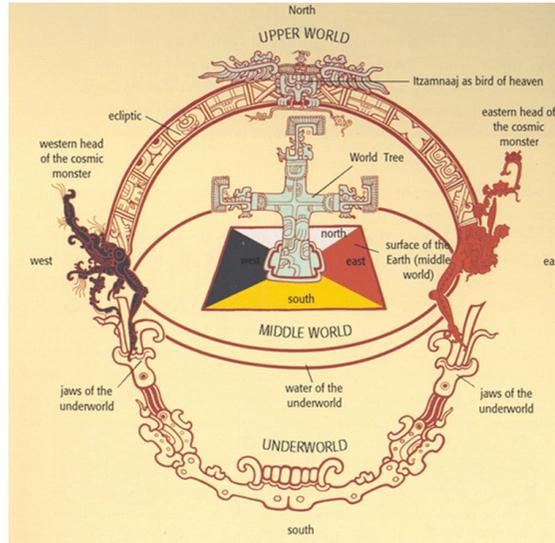
Civilisation	Sharing the feelings of others
Conquest	Taking control of a place through military force
Invasion	
Settlement	Where one or more dwelling (home) is placed
Archaeologist	A person who explores and examines historical artefacts and remains
Theology	The study of religious belief
Chronology	Dates or events that are arranged in order of when they first occurred
Belief system	A set of rules and ideas that form a religion, philosophy, or moral code
City - state	An independent government where a large city rules the surrounding area
Maize	Corn/sweetcorn
Cacao	Seeds from which cocoa, cocoa butter, and chocolate are made
Palenque	One of the Mayan city-states

The Giant World Tree

The Mayans believed that the world was divided into three parts:

- 1) The Heaven
- 2) The Earth (Middle World)
- 3) The Underworld

These were all connected by a giant World Tree.



Religion

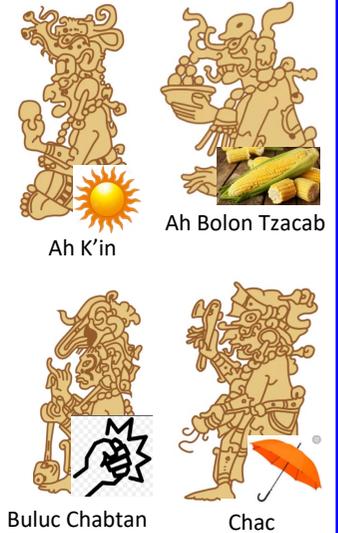
The Mayans believed in many Gods. To recall one of the key Gods and their roles from the following:

Chac – Rainmaker God

Ah Bolon Tzacab – God of farming

Ah K'in – God of sun, drought and disease

Buluc Chabtan – God of war, violence and sudden death



Farming

The Mayans used were innovative farmers

Raised farming – used on areas of land that otherwise would have been too wet to use. Small canals were created by digging out soil from beneath the water and piling up to create small islands.

Terraced farming – where walls are built to make small flat fields one on top of the other. This creates terraces on steep land

Slash and burn farming - Also known as 'shifting', when jungle areas are chopped down and burnt. The ash is high in nutrients, so perfect for growing crops. However, within a few years, the nutrients would be used up and the farmers would have to move elsewhere to let the forest re-grow

End of a Civilisation

That the Mayans were conquered in the Spanish Conquest and much of the civilisation was destroyed

Name one reason for conquest from the following: power, to spread religion or rule of living and to take resources

To know that there are over 7 million Maya people today

