



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 into different groups that lived independently from one another like Greek city states.



Key Vocabulary

Understand these key words

Word

Definition

Civilisation

A group of people with own languages and way of life.

**Conquest
Invasion**

Taking control of a place through military force

Settlement

Where one or more dwellings (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

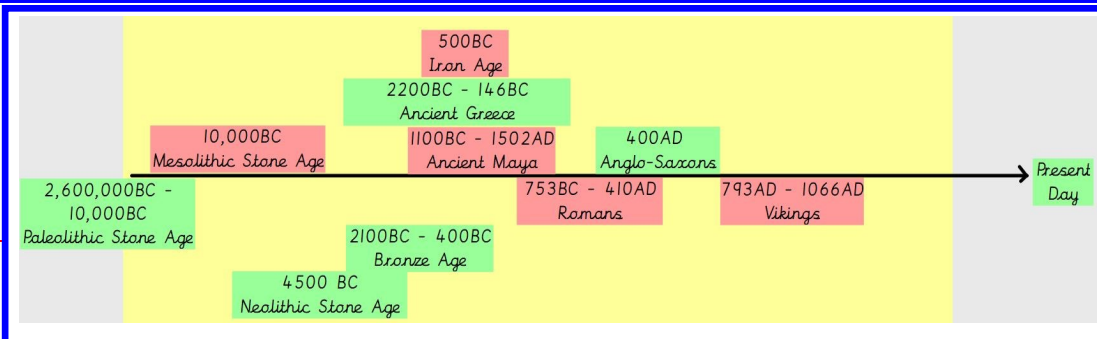
Corn/sweetcorn

Cacao

Seeds from which cocoa, cocoa butter, and chocolate are made

Palenque

One of the Mayan city-states



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 regrow

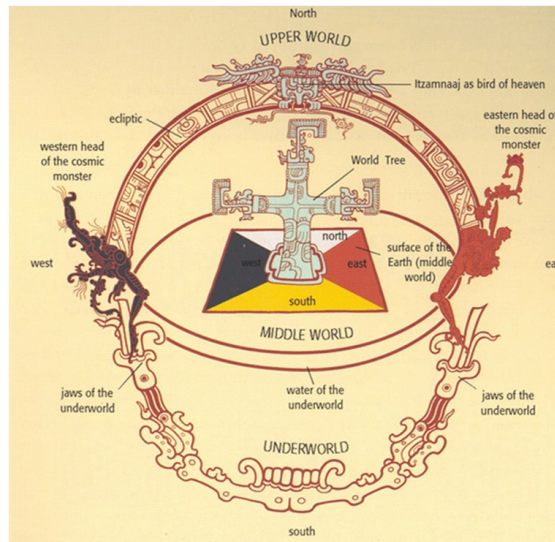


The Giant World Tree

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.



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

