



# What similarities and differences are there between the Maya civilisation and England from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century?



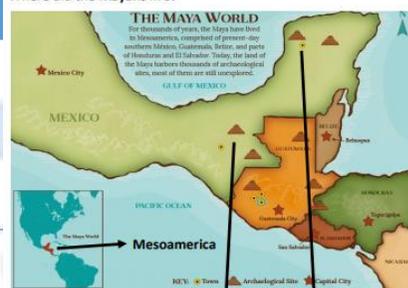
Phase: UKS2

Topic: Maya

### What should I already know?

- South America is a **continent**.
- The **climate** of South America is different to that of the UK.
- **Human** and **physical geographical** features of a region in South America.
- Other **civilisations** include the Greeks.
- The chronology of British history.

Where did the Mayans live?



Famous **Mayan** cities include Palenque and **Chichen Itza**, which are found in Mexico.

### Maya

- Used **limestone** for building and **obsidian** for tools.
- Had to use special farming techniques to survive.
- Cities grew and were filled with temples, ball courts and plazas
- King (**Ajak**) was at the top of the hierarchy and Commoners at the bottom.
- Maya were not a united empire
- Each Maya city was a state with its own ruler and council of high priests
- Maya controlled a city – single seat of power
- Maya cities fought with each other.
- Tan Te' K'inich was the Ajaw of Aguateca
- Aguateca was built upon a large **limestone** cliff, making the city extremely difficult to attack. In the centre of the city, a deep natural **ravine** separated the important government and religious buildings from the rest of the **settlement**.
- Archaeologists do not agree about what caused some city states to be **abandoned**.
- In the 10<sup>th</sup> century, Chichen Itza grew: it had a **port** so **obsidian** and **jadeite** could be shipped into the city.

### Values

Challenge

Commit

Conquer

Celebrate

### Timeline

| 11,000 B.C.  | 2000 B.C.   | 250 B.C.   | AD 250   | AD 800  | Today  |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| The first hunter-gatherers settle along the Pacific Coast then expanding into the Central highlands. | Village farming and trade becomes established throughout the Maya region. | First kings are identified in carvings on stela (stone monuments). | By this stage, the Maya had many established cities. They had many monuments, pyramids and devised a writing and maths | Sites in the tropical lowlands are <b>abandoned</b> while northern lowland sites flourish | There are still 7 million indigenous (people belonging to the country in which they are found) Maya people living in Central America |

### Technical vocabulary

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| historian     | a person who studies the past using documents and images                    |
| archaeologist | a person who studies the past through excavation and the study of artefacts |
| artefacts     | objects made by people in the past  |
| region        | an area of land   |
| drought       | a lack of rainfall  |
| irrigate      | adding water to farming fields  |
| crops         | plants grown to be farmed and eaten   |
| porous        | water can soak into it  |
| limestone     | a rock which is used for building   |
| jadeite       | a hard, green stone used to make jewellery                                  |
| settlement    | a place where people have settled to live                                   |
| ravine        | a deep, narrow valley   |
| ajaw          | a Maya king/leader  |
| kingdom       | a realm that is ruled by a king or queen                                    |
| abandoned     | left forever/deserted   |
| obsidian      | a dark, shiny volcanic glass used to make tools and jewellery               |
| annex         | to make part of an existing kingdom/country                                 |
| hostile       | unfriendly  |
| invade        | to enter as an enemy to take over   |
| trade         | the act of buying and selling things  |
| port          | a place where ships and boats unload  |
| civilisation  | a human society with its own social organisation and culture                |

### Anglo-Saxon England

- England was not a united country and was split into **kingdoms**
- An Anglo-Saxon king controlled all **settlements** – villages, towns and cities
- King Offa built a ditch (Offa's Dyke) to stop people from Powys attacking Mercia.
- The dominant **kingdom** shifted between Mercia and Wessex until the Vikings invaded.

