

Thomas Eaton Primary Academy










Year 3/4









Topic : The Mayans





Head

Heart

Hand

-  Investigate how and when Europeans encountered the Mayan civilisation.
-  Explore how we know about the Mayan civilisation and their way of life.
-  Explore how Mayan society was organised and how this compares to modern society.
-  Find out about what the Maya believed in, including their religious rites and rituals.
-  Use a variety of sources to piece together what life was like for the Maya.
-  Exploring the achievements of the Maya including their number systems and calendar.
-  Investigate the reasons behind the decline of the Mayan civilisation.

-  Adding key information to classroom world map
-  Visit to Cadbury World
-  Research an aspect of Mayan life and create a presentation to deliver to rest of class
-  Melting chocolate to create Mayan drink
-  Explore the mask of Lord Pakal and recreate Mayan masks.
-  Use clay to recreate Mayan artefacts.
-  Recreate the Bonampak murals using pastels and 3D nets
-  Design, make and evaluate a model of a Mayan temple.

-  Drama and role play - Hot seating
-  Write letters and diaries in role.
-  Newspaper reports - interviews.
-  Oracy debate - explore the implications of the Spanish conquest for the Mayan people

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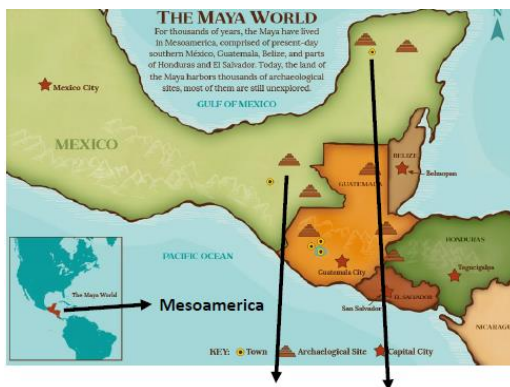
Topic : The Mayans

What I should already know?

- ❖ The Mayans lived in Central America.
- ❖ South America is a continent.
- ❖ The climate in South America is different to that of the UK.
- ❖ The Maya civilisation lived in the past.

Diagrams

Where the Mayans live



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

Mayan Society

- ❖ Mayan cities had similar layouts to each other. They would have a palace for the ruler, a plaza for the marketplaces and temples, in the form of pyramids.
- ❖ Mayan cities were often found near trade routes and good farmland.
- ❖ Mayans were polytheists, believing in many nature gods or deities.
- ❖ Priests were considered the most important people in the Mayan culture. Warriors, crafts-men and traders were next in the hierarchy. Farmers, workers and slaves were at the bottom of the hierarchy.
- ❖ Mayan merchants traded many goods including salt, cotton, honey and jade.
- ❖ The Mayan calendar (Tzolkin) consisted of 260 days and 13 months.
- ❖ The demise of the Mayan civilisation came about because of a mixture of deforestation, land erosion and drought.

Vocabulary

archaeologist	Someone who studies the past by exploring old remains.
artefact	an object made by a human being, of cultural or historical interest.
Chichen Itza	A village in Yucatan state in Mexico: site of important <u>Mayan</u> ruins. A UNESCO World Heritage Site.
civilisation	A human society with its own social organisation and culture.
climate	general weather conditions
continent	A very large area of land that consists of many countries. South America is a <u>continent</u> .
conquistadors	Spanish explorers
chronological	The order in which things occur.
deforestation	The clearance or removal of a forest from land.
hierarchy	A system of organising people in different ranks or levels of importance.
indigenous	People or things belonging to the country in which they are found.
human features	Features of the land that have been impacted by human activity.
Mesoamerica	Central America - the countries consist of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Belize; and the western sections of Honduras and Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica.
physical features	Natural features of land.
plaza	An open square in a city.
polytheists	The worship or belief in more than one God.
society	people in general, thought of as a large organized group

Timeline

c. AD 250: By this stage, the Mayan had many established cities. They had many monuments, pyramids and devised a writing and maths system.

c. AD 840: The quality of the fields is poor, and this combined with land erosion, leads to a **drought**.

Today...there are still 7 million **indigenous Mayan** people living in Central America.

c. AD 600: The **Mayan** population exceeded 5,000,000 people. Excessive farming and **deforestation** due to overflow from the cities were commonplace and this led to land becoming less **fertile**.

c. AD 900: Many Mayan cities are deserted due to **deforestation, drought and war**.