
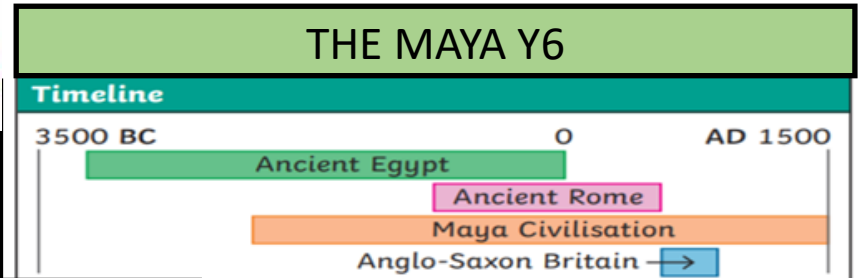


What I should already know:

- 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 Egyptians and the Greeks and their chronology.
- The chronology of British history to 1066
- What England was like during the Anglo Saxon & Viking struggle for power





Key Knowledge

- ♦ The Maya were a civilisation who lived in Mesoamerica (now part of Central America) between approximately 2000 BCE and 900CE.
- ♦ Merchants drove their human caravans along roads, down rivers and around coasts to trade with fellow Mayans and other Mesoamericans.
- ♦ The geography was so varied that they relied on trade to get the things they needed off each other, from maize, fish and salt to stingray spines (used for bloodletting) and valuable stones such as jade and obsidian.
- ♦ They are known for being the first Mesoamericans to develop writing.
- ♦ They also had a sophisticated culture in which they lived in city-states.
- ♦ They built spectacular monuments and stepped pyramids – some (e.g. Chichen Itza) have become world tourist destinations in the modern day.
- ♦ They were well known for their advanced maths and calendars.
- ♦ Around 900AD, many cities in the southern lowlands were abandoned and no-one knows quite why this happened.
- ♦ However, states in the uplands of the Yucatan peninsula continued to flourish until the arrival of the Spanish in 1502.



Vocabulary	
cacao beans	Cocoa beans before they are fermented
Chichén Itzá	One of Ancient Maya’s most famous temple cities
city state	A usually small, independent settlement consisting of a single city with its own rulers and laws
civilisation	An organised society with its own culture, existing in a particular area.
jade	A semiprecious stone, generally green or white in colour
maize	Sweetcorn. A crucial crop to Ancient Maya.
mass abandonment	Where all the people leave a place together, leaving it to ruin and neglect
Maya	Mesoamerican indigenous people occupying a nearly continuous territory in southern Mexico, Guatemala, and northern Belize.
MesoAmerica	Area of Central America
natural resources	Things from nature and used with few modifications e.g. wood, minerals, stone
pok-ta-pok	The ball game was sometimes used to settle disputes instead of going to war.
pyramid temple	Similar to Egyptian pyramids, but these have flat tops (many with temples on the top) and stairs ascending their faces
source of Information	Sources of information or evidence are often categorized as primary, secondary, or tertiary material.
stelae	Carved stone monuments or slabs with glyphs or hieroglyphs
trade	The action of buying and selling goods and services
Yucatan Peninsular	A large peninsula in southeastern Mexico jutting out into the Atlantic Ocean