

Knowledge Organiser Year 6: Why did the ancient Maya change the way they lived?

Key objective

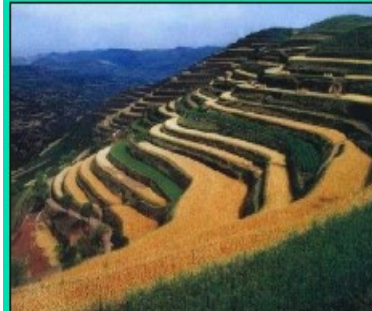
Understand why the ancient Maya civilisation of Central America abandoned their jungle cities between AD 900-1100.

Environments I will understand



Tropical rainforest of Central America

Important types of Maya agriculture I will understand



Terraced farming

Important places I will visit



The city of Chichen Itza

Important things I will know, understand and be able to do:

- 1) The location of the countries and cities of modern Central America.
The natural features of the environment and climate of Central America.
- 2) The way of life of modern Mayan people.
- 3) Who the ancient Maya were and some of their achievements.
- 4) The features and purpose of the structures of the ruined Maya city of Chichen Itza.
How the ancient Maya farmed using mountain terraces.
- 5) The purpose of a range of ancient Maya artefacts from the city.
- 6) The social and religious importance of the ball game pok-a-tok.
- 7) The likely cause of the gradual abandonment of the ancient Maya jungle cities between AD 900 - 1100.

How the way of life of the Maya compared with that of the Anglo Saxons living in Britain at the same time.

Important subject vocabulary I will learn

Reconstruct	to rebuild or make again
Conquest	gain control of a place or people by force
Ceremonial	an act or series of acts done in a set way on a special occasion
City-state	a small nation with a single large settlement surrounded by the territory it rules
Abandon	to leave behind with no plan ever to return
Erosion	the wearing away of the land by forces such as water, wind and ice that move the soil and rock to a new location
Tropical	regions of the Earth surrounding the equator
Rainforest	dense evergreen woodland found in tropical regions
Expedition	a journey undertaken by a group of people to explore a place
Rediscover	find something that has been lost, hidden or forgotten for a long time
Famine	a serious shortage of food which may result in illness or death caused by hunger
Priest	someone with the authority to carry out the sacred rites of a religion
Eclipse	when one object in space blocks another object from view
Deforestation	the cutting down and clearing of forests
Water cycle	the path that water takes as it moves around the Earth and its atmosphere
Restore	repair or bring something back to its original condition
Timeline	a graph to show the order in which events happened
Flash flood	a very sudden local flood caused by heavy rain