

# Clitheroe Brookside Primary School

## Topic: The Mayans HISTORY

## Starlings

### What should I already know

The Stone age was one of Britain's earliest civilizations. They were farmers and known as hunter gatherers. They built a monument in Wiltshire, England which still stands today.

The Ancient Egyptians were an ancient civilization in North Africa, now known as Egypt. They were famous for their mummification of Pharaohs, their hieroglyphics and of course the pyramids.

The Ancient Greeks were great thinkers, warriors, writers, actors, athletes, artist and architects. They organised and held the first Olympic games.

The Romans were warrior people who got much of their wealth by conquering other lands. They kept a large army of soldiers to keep the peace in their lands. The Romans gave us language, the calendar, roads and aqueducts.

The Anglo Saxons were migrants from northern Europe who settled in England in the fifth and sixth centuries . All the family had to help out with the work- mainly farming. They left behind burial sites and ruins where many artefacts were discovered- for example at Sutton Hoo.

### What will I know by the end of this unit?

### Vocabulary

Where and when did the Maya live?

The Maya civilization were people who lived in Mesoamerica around 4000 years ago.

What was Maya writing like?

The Maya used an advanced form of writing called hieroglyphics. Their writing looks similar to Ancient Egyptians but it is actually quite different. The Mayans used symbols (glyphs) to represent words, sounds or objects.

How did the Maya tell the time?

They Maya told the time using the sun. they were astronomers who were able to predict solar eclipses. Their complex 52 year calendar system was one of the most accurate from the ancient world.

What numbers did the Maya use?

The Maya were sophisticated mathematicians who made use of the number zero. They used base 20 in their calculations.

Did the Maya play games like us?

They had a ball game called pitz. This was part of Maya political, religious and social life. Played with a rubber ball, players would attempt to bounce the ball without using their hands through stone hoops on side walls.

How do we know about the Maya today?

The first explorers found Maya ruins in the 1800's. We know things through artefacts found and ancient Maya writings.

**Aqueduct**

A channel, made by man, that carries water.

**Archaeologist**

A person who studies History and investigates places and objects.

**Hieroglyph**

A picture of an object used to represent a word.

**Thatched**

The use of straw or palm leaves to keep rain and wind out of buildings

**Astronomy**

The study of the sun, moon, planets and stars.

**Batab**

A lord who usually ruled over a small town.

**Ahau**

The king of a Maya city state

**Cenote**

A reservoir found underground in the limestone of Yucatan, Mexico

**Obsidian**

A hard rock that was used to make tools.

**Sacbe**

A road by the Maya for travel

**Conquistadors**

A group of Spanish people who invaded Mexico and Peru in the 1500s.

**xibalba**

The Maya underworld

**Pitz**

A Mayan ball game.

**Pok a tok**

A Mayan ball game



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