

Topic

The Mayans



Holy Family Halewood

Year 3 and 4 History



What I will focus on in this topic:

To locate Mayan civilisation in time and place.

To discover information about the Mayan Civilisation –inc reasons for the growth of the Mayan empire?

To locate and describe the main Mayan cities

What was life for the Mayan people?

To investigate the religious beliefs of the Mayan Civilisation.

To compare and contrast the Mayan Civilisation with British History during the same period.



el Castillo Chichen itza

Timeline of Key Events (all dates are approximate)

2000 BC (BCE)	The Mayan civilisation emerges in Central America
750 BC (BCE)	The first Maya cities are built.
250 BC (BCE)	The first Maya hieroglyphics were used.
100 BC (BCE)	City states begin to form, with powerful leaders.
300 AD (CE)	Mayan settlements become centres for trade across the region. Goods such as stone and chocolate are traded with neighbouring city states.
600 AD (CE)	Mayan settlements support an increasing population, growing at a fast rate due to plentiful food supply.
800-850 AD (CE)	The huge stepped pyramid, El Castillo, is built at Chichen Itza.
900 AD (CE)	Mayan centres become less important, perhaps because of a widespread drought, but no clear reason has yet emerged.

Vocabulary

Artefact	An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.
Base 20	a maths system based on 20, not 10 like we use
Mesoamerica	The term is derived from the Greek and means "Middle America"
Creation myth	a story which explains the beginning of the world
Hieroglyphs	writing that is made of pictures
Rain forest	an area of forest that contains many tall trees, has high temperatures and lots of rain
Stelae	stones or wooden posts which have writing on
Interpretation	one person's point of view based on evidence
Civilisation	Human society which is organised.
Dynasty	A series of rulers or leaders who are all from the same family, or a period when a country is ruled by them.
BCE	Before Common Era
CE	Common Era

Key Places

NAME	What Happened there
Miradorr City	100,000 residents. Archaeologists have found 3 large temple pyramids
Kaminaljuyn City	in Guatemala Highlands occupied from 1200 BC – 900 AD
Tikal	One of the most powerful city states, built in an area of Rainforest. It has some of the most preserved ruins and tombs – giving historians some of the best clues about how the Maya people lived
Chichen Itza	Large city built by Maya people in Classical Period.



Map showing the expanse of the Maya Empire

(between 300 AD and 900 AD)