

Oasis Academy Short Heath

Topic: The Ancient Myans

Year: 5

Focus subject: History

What should I already know?

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Vocabulary

civilisation	An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time.
drought	A long period with very little rain.
ritual	A ceremony, often religious, with set actions performed in a set order.
jaguar	A big cat, heavier than a leopard, with yellowish fur and black spots.
scribes	People paid to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write.
codices	Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.
maize	Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas.
cacao beans	Cacao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When they are ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans, which can then be dried, roasted and ground
Maya Numbers	The Maya developed a complex number and counting system that was advanced for their time
Maya writing	The Maya writing system, used to write several different Maya languages, was made up of over 800 symbols called glyphs

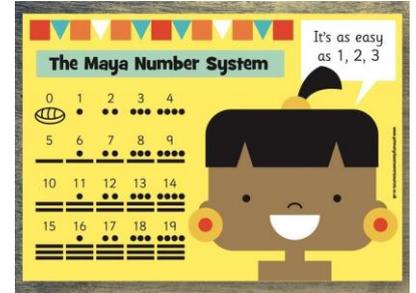
Key facts

(see below)

What will I know by the end of the unit?

What was...

- What was the Maya number system like?



- What was Mayan food like?



Who were...?

- Who were the Mayan Gods?



The Queen

How did...

- How did the Mayan civilisation end?



Key facts

- Religion: The Maya believed in and worshipped a number of different gods. They believed that the gods had a good side and a bad side and that the gods could help or hurt them. The Maya would dance, sing and sometimes make offerings of blood to the gods.
- The Upperworld and the Underworld: The Maya people believed that the earth, which they called the Middleworld, was large and flat and resting on the back of a creature, such as a turtle or crocodile.
- Mayan writing: The Maya writing system, used to write several different Maya languages, was made up of over 800 symbols called glyphs.
- Maya Numbers: The Maya developed a complex number and counting system that was advanced for their time.
- Food: Maize was a very important crop that formed up to 80% of the Maya people's diets. They believed that the first humans were made from maize dough by the gods.
- Timeline: The Maya civilisation comes into being in Central America in 200BC. The last elements of the Maya civilisation were destroyed by the Spanish in 1500AD.