

Mayan Civilisation: KS2 Knowledge Mat

Subject Specific Vocabulary

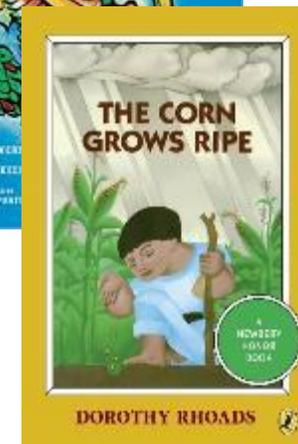
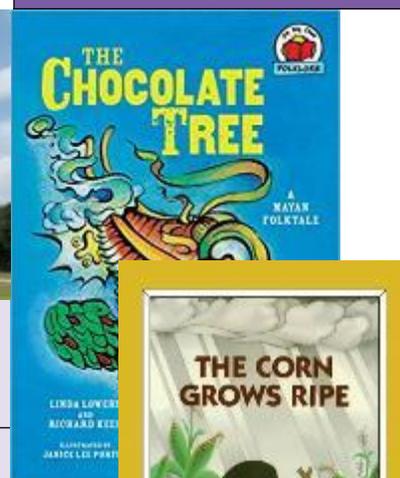
glyphs	Symbols used in the Mayan writing system. Each symbol represents a word or sound.
codices	Books created by the Mayans. They were made of soft bark and folded like a fan.
Chichen Itza	The Mayans most well-known pyramid.
cacao	Seeds that the Maya used to make chocolate.
ahau or ahaw	The main king or lord of a Maya city-state.
batab	A lesser lord, usually ruling over a small town.
Itzamna	The main god of the Maya, Itzamna was the god of fire who created the Earth.
huipil	A traditional garment worn by Maya women.
Kin	Word representing a day in the Maya calendar.
Kukulcan	The serpent god of the Maya. One of the primary gods, especially to the Itza peoples of Chichen Itza.
Uinal	Word for a month in the Maya calendar. It was 20 days long.



Sticky Knowledge about the Mayan civilization

- The Mayans were expert mathematicians and astronomers. They used this expertise to make calendars.
- The Mayans were situated in modern day central America and covered 5 modern day countries.
- Although the Mayans had metal-working skills, metal ores were scarce. Mayans used stone tools to carve the limestone that they used for their buildings.
- Mayan people originated in Asia.
- Mayan religion was extremely bloodthirsty, demanding human sacrifices and blood-letting rituals. The Mayans believed in an afterlife and that those who were sacrificed, as well as those killed in war and women who died in childbirth, went to 'the place of misty sky'.
- At the top of Mayan society was the king and royal family who were believed to be closely linked to the gods. An educated elite of scribes, priests and nobles formed the ruling class. They occupied the finest buildings in the city.
- Mayan society was formed of a number of city states each with their own ruler.

Exciting Books



Mayans. The **Mayan**, or **Maya**, peoples made their home in an area known as **Mesoamerica** (modern day Mexico and Central America). **Mayan** culture was well established by 1000 BCE, and it lasted until 1697.

What should I already know?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • What erosion is and what impact it can have on land.

History skills

Examine a variety of sources and use these to make inferences about the past - in particular about **Mayan economy, culture, religious beliefs and society**.

Describe how the **Mayan civilisation** has had an impact on modern **society**. Examine the timeline of the **Mayan civilisation** and consider where there was rapid change and where there was very little change.. Explain why this may be the case.

Compare what was happening in the **Mayan civilisation** with what was happening in Britain at the same time. Compare the **Mayans** with the Greek and Egyptian **civilisations** using a Venn diagram.

Describe the ideas, beliefs and attitudes of all groups of people in the **Mayan civilisation**.

Present what you know about the **Mayans** using a variety of skills (e.g. Geography English, Maths, Computing, etc) Use appropriate vocabulary to communicate about the **Mayans**.

