

South American Civilisations: The Maya

What will I learn by the end?

When did the Maya and Aztec civilisations occur within wider history?
 How was their society made up?
 What religious beliefs did they hold?
 What were they most famous for?
 How did their calendar work?
 What was the decline of the Maya civilisation?

Concepts:

Understand concepts such as:

- Democracy, tyranny, oligarchy
- Exploration and encounters
- Old World/ New World
- Industrialisation, revolution
- Wealth, poverty
- Parliament, executive and legislature
- Tribe, sacrifice, reign
- State

Sticky Learning

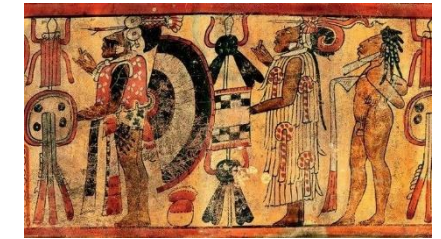
New History Knowledge

To know key facts about South American civilisations that contrast with British and European history
 • To know where and when each of the civilisations were at their peak
 • We know about the ancient South American civilisations because of evidence they left behind including pyramids, glyphs, temple ruins, treasure, clay, statues
 • To know about the technological and scientific understanding of these ancient civilisations and how this has been rediscovered
 • To know about the religious beliefs and practises of these civilisations and how they reflected an alternative world view
 • To know how these empires were built, developed and ruled in contrast to those studied in British history
 • To know how and why these ancient civilisations came to an end

New History Skills

- Be able to create a timeline using an appropriate scale and plot events in chronological order
- Use dates and the names of time periods accurately in their historical enquires
- Be able to explain the positive and negative aspects of a piece of evidence they have located e.g. it is a first-hand account, but the person was biased
- Evaluate the contribution of different types of approach to historical enquiry e.g. archaeologist and historian
- Be able to identify trends in changes that have occurred over time
- Be able to explain the significance of an event, a change or a person's contribution
- Organise information from an historical enquiry to be able to present their conclusion or point of view
- Summarise their findings about a period, person, theme or event

Significant Figures and Images



Key Dates

c. 2000 BC	The Maya civilisation comes into being in Central America.
c. 300 BC	Cities, such as El Mirador, become large and powerful.
AD 900	Cities in the rainforest are abandoned due to a drought . People move north to the highlands of Guatemala and the Yucatán.
AD 1000	Cities like Chichén Itzá (which has two temple pyramids) are still thriving.
AD 1500s (16 th century)	The Spanish arrive in South America and set out to destroy the remaining elements of Maya civilisation as part of their conquest.
AD 1839	American explorer and writer, John Lloyd Stephens, and British artist, Frederick Catherwood, explore Copán and other cities including Chichén Itzá, reigniting interest in the Maya civilisation .
AD 2014	The cities of Lagunita and Tamchén are rediscovered.

Vocabulary

civilisation	A human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
drought	A long period of time with little or no rain.
jaguar	A big cat, heavier than a leopard, with yellowish fur and black spots.
scribes	People trained 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.

