

# Blue Coat History Knowledge Organiser



Year Group: 3	Themes: Settlements, Food and farming, Society, Culture and pastimes	Period of History: The Maya	Strand: a non-European society that provides contrasts with British history
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Key Vocabulary		Where
Spelling	Definition	
<b>Temple</b>	A building used for the worship of a god or gods in some religions.	<p>Where did the Maya live?</p>
<b>Maize</b>	Maize, also known as corn, is a cereal grain.	
<b>Innovations</b>	New ways of doing something.	
<b>Agriculture</b>	Farming and keeping animals.	
<b>Hieroglyphs</b>	Writing that is made of pictures.	
<b>Trade</b>	The action of buying and selling goods (things you've made) and services (doing things for people).	
<b>Artefact</b>	An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.	
<b>Currency</b>	a system of money used in a particular country or civilisation.	
<b>Maya</b>	the name to the people of that time in Central America.	

Key Knowledge		
Focus	Images	Key Information
Farming 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maize (or corn) was the main food of the Maya people and made up to 80% of their diet (what they ate).</li> <li>The Maya were using cacao beans to make a chocolatey drink from as far back as the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. The drink was enjoyed by the rich and the cacao beans were highly valued. They were even used as currency later on in Maya history (after 1100 AD).</li> <li>They used a slash-and-burn method of farming, which meant cutting down trees and plants to make room for their crops. Their tools were made from wood, stone and animal bones.</li> </ul>
Settlements 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The city states were centres for trade, religious worship and entertainment.</li> <li>Most Maya people lived in small stone or thatched homes but the rich lived in palaces.</li> <li>There were 5 social classes in Maya times. These were <b>Rulers</b>, followed by <b>nobles</b> and <b>priests</b>, then <b>craftsmen</b>, <b>peasants</b> and finally the <b>slaves</b>. <b>Priests</b> were actually the most powerful people in Maya society.</li> </ul>
Achievements 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Maya was the only civilisation to develop a writing system that was able to show their spoken language. It had over 500 symbols/glyphs to represent words and ideas.</li> <li>The Maya were able to build an accurate calendar system. This was important because it told the Maya when to plant crops, when to harvest and even when to make a sacrifice to the gods.</li> <li>Their numerical system was possibly the most advanced at the time. They were one of only two cultures in the world to develop the idea of zero.</li> </ul>

Key Dates								
1100 B.C.	800 B.C.	700 B.C.	300 B.C.	100 B. C.	600 A.D.	800 A.D.	900 A.D.	1502 A.D.
The first hunter-gatherers on the pacific coast	Village farming and trade become established	Maya writing is developed	Cities become centres for trade and kings begin to rule	First pyramids are built	Cities start expanding quickly	Building of stepped pyramid of Chichen-Itza	Decline of Mayan cities	First contact with Europeans is made

Learning Outcomes
<p><b>I can</b> examine a variety of sources and use these to make inferences about the past - in particular about Mayan economy, culture, religious beliefs and society.</p> <p><b>I can</b> 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 the case.</p> <p><b>I know</b> that Mayan cities were often found near trade routes and good farmland.</p>