

# Gunthorpe Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

<b>Topic Focus:</b>	Maya Civilisation	<b>Year 6:</b>	Autumn Term 2
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Maya Key Knowledge	
Timeline of events	
<p><b>2000BC</b> – Farming villages appear</p> <p><b>1000BC</b> – Larger settlements are created.</p> <p><b>700BC</b> – Maya writing begins developing</p> <p><b>400BC</b> – First Maya calendars are carved into stone.</p> <p><b>100BC</b> – First pyramids are built.</p> <p><b>400AD</b> – Many people live in a capital city.</p> <p><b>925AD</b> – Chichen Itza becomes capital city.</p> <p><b>1517AD</b> – The Spanish arrive and begin their colonisation of Central America.</p>	
Maya Facts	
Calendar	<p>Time was extremely important to the Maya, they made elaborate and accurate calendars and used them in charting the movements of the sun, moon, stars and even planets. These calendars served a variety of purposes both practical and sacred. They were used in astronomical calculations, recording important events, the reigns of rulers and their conquests.</p>
Religion	<p>The Maya believed in a large number of nature gods. Some gods were considered more important and powerful than others. They built a number of pyramid style temples to worship these gods and believed in the power of sacrifice (including humans).</p>
Social class	<p>There were 5 social classes in Maya times. These were Rulers, followed by nobles and priest, then craftsmen, peasants and finally the slaves. Each major city had a ruler and the position was passed down through the family. Priest were actually the most powerful people in Maya society. The peasants were generally the farmers who lived outside of the city.</p>
Gruesome facts	<p>Flat foreheads were fashionable so they would put a baby's head in a press to squash it. It was considered beautiful to be cross-eyed so parents would hang pebbles in between their children's eyes to make them look inwards. The Maya predicted that the world would end in 2012. Noblewomen would file their teeth into sharp points.</p>

Key Vocabulary	
Spelling	Definition
Maya	The collective noun for the Mayan people.
Mesoamerica	The region in which the Maya lived. Spanning over Mexico and parts of Southern America.
Deity	A synonym for god.
Chichen Itza	One of the best preserved examples of a Maya city
Hieroglyph	A symbol that has a worded meaning, read like our graphemes.
Sacrifice	A slaughtering of an animal or human as an offering to please the gods.
Vigesimal	Number system based on 20s used by the Maya people.
Empire	A group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country.

Diagrams																																									
Map of the Maya region																																									
																																									
<p><b>The Mayan Number System</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>0</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>⊖</td><td>•</td><td>••</td><td>•••</td><td>••••</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>—</td><td>—•</td><td>—••</td><td>—•••</td><td>—••••</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>══</td><td>══•</td><td>══••</td><td>══•••</td><td>══••••</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>═══</td><td>═══•</td><td>═══••</td><td>═══•••</td><td>═══••••</td> </tr> </table>	0	1	2	3	4	⊖	•	••	•••	••••	5	6	7	8	9	—	—•	—••	—•••	—••••	10	11	12	13	14	══	══•	══••	══•••	══••••	15	16	17	18	19	═══	═══•	═══••	═══•••	═══••••	<p>El Castillo is a temple in the Maya city of Chichen Itza.</p> 
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