



# Year 5 History: Mayans (a non-European society that provides contrasts with British history : Mayan civilization c. AD 900; )

## Prior Learning

- In Britain, in 1000BC, the Bronze Age was happening. (Y3)
- By 900AD, the Vikings ruled over most of Britain. (Y4)
- Around the world, the Ancient Greek and Ancient Egyptian eras were thriving. (Y3)
- Although the Vikings were known for their raiding, they were also peaceful farmers, who were skilled at craftwork. (Y4)
- The seven continents are Europe (where we live, and from where the Ancient Greeks, Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings originated); Asia, Africa (mainly the continent of the Ancient Egyptians), North America, South America, Australasia and Antarctica. (Y2)

## Sticky Knowledge

- The Mayan period ran from approximately 2000BC to 1500AD.
- The Mayan civilisation began to collapse when the Spanish invaded.
- The Mayan civilisation spanned across parts of Central America.
- Mayans were famous for believing in a range of Gods, for whom they would sing, dance and make sacrifices.
- The Mayans also believed that the world was flat and that they could travel to the Upperworld or Underworld after death.
- The Mayan writing and numbering system is famous, too. These were considered advanced for their time.
- Food enjoyed by Mayans was maize (up to 80% of their diet) and a chocolate drink made from cacao beans which was very bitter.



Today, the area the Maya used to live in spreads over 5 countries: Mexico (southern Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula), Belize, Guatemala, a small area of west Honduras and the very north of El Salvador.



## Vocabulary

cenote	a pit or sink-hole filled with water – a source of water for Mayans and location for sacrifices.
civilisation	An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time.
codices	Handwritten texts from Ancient times.
glyph	A symbol used in writing
Mesoamerica	Mesoamerica refers to an area where a number of societies had been formed before the Spanish arrived in the 16 <sup>th</sup> century
pyramid	Used to house deities or bury kings. <u>El Castillo</u> (see centre, top) This pyramid was built as a temple to the god Kukulcan in the city of Chichen Itza. The total height of the pyramid is just under 100 feet. Each side of El Castillo has 91 steps. When you add up the steps on all four sides and then add in the top platform as a step, you get 365 steps, one for each day of the year.
ritual	A religious ceremony with actions performed in a specific order, each with significance.
sacrifice	Giving something up that is valued.



# Griffe Field Primary School history topics timeline

