

Knowledge Organiser for Year 3 History– Ancient Mayans

Big question: How does the Ancient Mayan Civilizations differ from aspects of British history?

National curriculum specification

- Explore the achievements of the earliest civilizations – an overview of where and when the earliest civilizations appeared.
- An in-depth study into... Ancient Mayans.
- Ask perceptive questions
- Know and understand significant achievements and follies of mankind
- Understand historical concepts: change, cause and consequence
- Use historical sources to analyse trends, frame historically valid questions and create their own structured accounts; including written narratives and analyses
- Construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.
- Develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history

Timeline of key events

2000BCE	Farming villages begin to form across the Maya region in Central America and parts of Mexico.
1,100 BCE	The first Mayan settlements begin to appear in Mesoamerica.
800BC	Instead of foraging, maize farming begins and trade between villages begins.
700 BCE	Mayan writings begin to develop through the form of hieroglyphs.
600BCE	Large buildings are built in the city of El Mirador
600BCE	Maya built their first pyramids and develop cities, prompting the rapid rise of Tikal in the Tropical Lowlands. Tikal will be a major city of the Mayan civilizations
400BCE	Mayan calendars are carved into stone.
300BCE	Mayans develop monarchies (Kings and Queens to rule over them).
100BCE	The first Mayan pyramids are built.
400AD	The city of Teotihuacan becomes the main city of the Mayans.
800AD–1502AD	Mayan civilization begins to decline and vanish. The Mayan ruins are found by a Spanish expedition.

Key facts/figures

Sacrifice	Rituals that involved giving a human or animal life in order to please the Gods. It was seen as a religious festival and many people would attend.
Pok-a-tok	A religious game, players would use their bodies to get a ball through a stone hoop. The losing team would be given as sacrifice.
Headdresses	Headdresses were a major aspects of Mayan culture, it was believed

	the larger the headdress the more important the person was.
Mayan Numerals	The Mayan numeral system was a way to represent numbers and calendar dates. It went from 0-20.

Key places/ people	
Chaac	The Mayan God of rain. The Maya believed that the best way to please Gods was through sacrifice, in a drought they believed Chaac was punishing them.
Pakal the Great	A King in the Mesoamerica whose reign lasted more than 68 years, the longest lasting King in Ancient Maya.
Mesoamerica	The area of Central America that was home to the Ancient Mayans.
El Castillo	A pyramid built as a temple to the god Kukulcan in the city of Chichen Itza.
Teotihuacan	Became the most important city of the Mayan civilization.
Chichen Itza	A well-preserved Mayan city. Now a popular tourist destination.

Key vocabulary/Tier 3	
Artefact	An object that is made by a person, often of historical interest.
Calendar	A printed
Canopic Jars	Special jars that held the organs of a mummy.
Dynasty	A period of rule when a series of Pharaohs all came from the same family.
Egyptologists	An archaeologist who focusses on Ancient Egypt.
Hieroglyphics	A type of writing which using pictures and symbols.
Mummification	The process of preserving a body after death in preparation for the afterlife.
Papyrus	A plant that grew on the banks of the Nile.
Pharaoh	The supreme ruler of all of Ancient Egypt.
Sarcophagus	A large stone box that help a mummy's coffin.

Key concepts	
Egyptian pyramids were build for the Pharaohs and their families.	
The afterlife was very important to Egyptians, they believed that mummification would preserve their soul in the afterlife forever.	
Ancient Egyptians invented lots of things that we use today; paper, pens, locks, keys and toothpaste.	
Lots was learn about the Ancient Egyptians from the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb by Howard Carter in 1922.	

