

Chacewater School – LEAP Into Learning – Summer 2 – Red Oaks

HISTORY - MAYA: Who were the Maya and why should we remember them?

What I might already know: Trade *involves an exchange of goods* in return for other goods and services or money.
The countries of North and South America



What we will be learning:

Who were the Maya and where did they come from?



The Maya were an **ancient civilisation** of people who lived in an area that used to be known as **Mesoamerica**. People had lived in the area from around 5000 BC but it wasn't until around 300 BC that the first cities started to form. Before this people were hunter gatherers, or lived in small villages.

Why did the Maya empire grow and how did they become so important?



What were the Maya's significant achievements?

They were highly advanced in **art, writing and mathematics**.
They made **astronomical observations** and understood a lot about the Moon, as well as many stars and planets.

By 900 AD, the Maya were a very **advanced society**.
The Maya grew so strong because they knew how to **grow crops like maize** and **irrigate fields**, **how to hunt** and to **trade**.



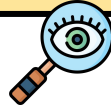
What was everyday life like in Maya civilisation?



Society was **hierarchical**. At the top of Maya society were the **King and Royal family**, who were believed to be closely linked to the gods. An educated elite of scribes, priests and nobles formed the **ruling class**. They occupied the finest buildings in the city and the lives of common people are very poorly recorded.



Why did the Maya empire decline?



Maya civilization was in decline at time of **Saxon control in Britain**.
It is difficult to be certain as to the reason for the Maya empire decline, **without written records**.

