

Y3 Su 1 – Ancient Mayans - History

Vocabulary

Word	Definition
Cacao	Seeds that the Maya used to make their chocolate.
Chichen Itza	The most powerful city during Mayan times.
Code	A book written by the Maya that was created by one long sheet of paper.
Glyph	A symbol used in writing.
Itzamma	The main Mayan god who they believed created Earth.
Sacrifice	To give up something for the sake of somebody else
Yutcan Peninsula	An area in South-Eastern Mexico where some of the Maya civilisation lived

Previous Knowledge

In Year 1, you learnt:

- Events beyond living memory

In Year 2, you learnt:

- Significant events and people
- How to sequence events historically

In Year 3, you've learnt:

- Chronology
- About the ancient Egyptian civilisation, & Stone Age to Iron Age

Key Questions

- When were the Mayans alive compared to other civilisations we have learnt about?
- What was their main source of nutrition?
- What impact has Mayan civilisation had on today's world?
- Understand Mayan structures.

Key Information

The Maya civilization were people who lived in Central America. They lived there for a long time and some of the Maya people live there even today.

The Maya civilization was biggest between the years of 420 AD and 900 AD. The Maya civilization spread all the way from central Mexico to Honduras, Guatemala, and northern El Salvador. The Maya people traded with other people in the Americas.

Their art and buildings have lots of different styles. This shows they traded a lot. They made changes to their buildings to make them even better. The Maya civilization started getting smaller after 900 AD.

Between 900 AD and 1000 AD, the Mayan cities had lots of problems until all the people left. The Maya civilization there stopped making big monuments and carvings. People who study the Maya civilization are not sure why this happened. They have many different ideas - some people think there was a big environmental disaster, or a disease affected a lot of people



Spellings: Maya, civilisation, ancient, pyramid, sacrifice, chocolate, settlement, temple, astronomy, myths, mythology, empire, Mexico, agriculture,