

Knowledge Organiser - The Maya

Year 5 - History



Key Vocabulary

Mesoamerica	The part of the continent North America where the Maya and other civilizations lived.
Chichen Itza	A Maya city full of pyramids that was not destroyed and can still be seen today
Pyramid	A 3D man-made structure that is built through large cuboids of rock piled upon one another to form a triangular shape.
The Hero Twins	Legendary characters in Maya stories who were great Pok a Tok ball players
Pok-a-tok:	A religious game that was often refereed by the high priest. The players would have to use their bodies to get a ball through a stone hoop. The losing team would sometimes be used as a sacrifice!
Hieroglyph	A symbol that the Maya would read as words.
Maize Corn	The major source of food for Maya people. Part of their religious culture too.



Ancient Mayan Pyramid



The Mayan civilisation, situated in southern Mexico.



Ancient Mayan Masks

1,100 BCE: The first "Maya" settlements are built

800 BCE: Instead of hunting and gathering, the Maya begin farming maize and trading

700 BCE: Maya writing (Hieroglyphs) appears

100BCE - 450 CE: Maya first build pyramids and cities

800AD: Maya civilization begins to decline and vanish

1502: Maya Ruins are found by Spanish explorers