

Timeline

	1100 B.C.	800 B.C.	400 B.C.	300 B.C.	100 B.C.	600 A.D.	800 A.D.	900 A.D.	1502 A.D.
Mayans	The first hunter-gatherers on the pacific coast	Village farming and trade become established	First solar calendars invented	Cities become centres for trade and kings begin to rule	First pyramids are built	Cities start expanding quickly	Building of stepped pyramid of Chichen-Itza	Decline of Mayan cities	First contact with Europeans is made
Britain	The Bronze Age - people had already been working with bronze and stone for more than 1000 years	People were beginning to discover iron. The Iron Age began in around 800 B.C.	Celts have begun to arrive in Britain, hill forts are becoming more common place.	A tribe of people arrived from France, bringing new art and culture to Britain.	First coins are introduced	The Anglo Saxons have arrived, kingdoms have been established and Aethelberht of Kent is one of the most powerful kings in England.	The Vikings have arrived and attacked Lindisfarne in 793 A.D. There's much fighting between Anglo Saxons and Vikings.	King Alfred has defeated the Vikings (871 A.D.) and divided Britain into Danelaw for the Vikings and Wessex for the Anglo Saxons	England is already united under one monarch. There are places which still exist today (London, Norwich, York, Chester, Bristol).

Knowledge

The Maya were a Stone Age society. They used the natural resources around them for tools and weapons. They were still living like Stone Age people in 900 A.D., when people in Britain had been using metal for thousands of years.

The Mayan people were important. They lived in jungles and mountains, but their empire grew because they knew how to grow crops like maize, and how to hunt. They relied on trade to get the things they needed, and travelled great distances to trade with fellow Mayans and other Mesoamericans.

Life was very different for rich and poor people in the Mayan civilisation. The Mayan society was structured - kings at the top, slaves at the bottom. The Maya people believed that being obedient to your leader was important for keeping society working as it should.

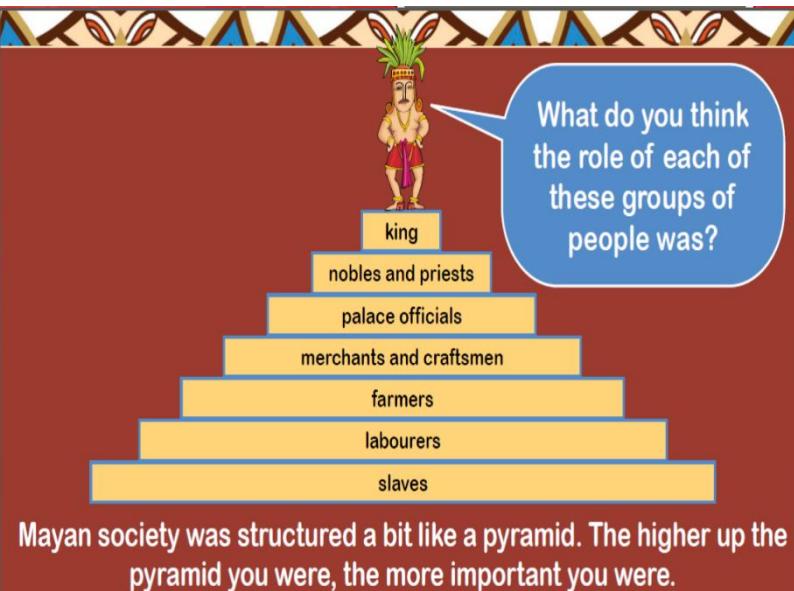
The Maya were one of only five cultures in the whole world to develop a fully-fledged writing system! The Maya created a writing system using symbols called glyphs. Each symbol represented a word or a sound.

The Maya developed a way of writing numbers. They wrote the numbers 0-19 with 3 symbols: a shell-like oval for zero, a dot to stand for 1 and when they got to 5 dots, they replaced this with a bar. They developed the concept of zero, and were able to do very complex mathematical calculations.

Mayans had a very different concept of time to ours. They had a calendar as accurate as ours, but each of their 20 months had only 13 days. They also had 5 extra days at the end of the year, making up their year.

They built incredible cities and pyramids. Their brilliant maths skills helped them to build incredible temples and pyramids, like the Temple of Kukulkan at Chichen Itza.

Around 900 A.D., about 90% of the Mayans disappeared from their major cities. For decades, historians have been searching for an explanation for this. Lots of ideas have been put forward, such as war, disease or over-farming. We may never know for sure.



What I should already know

- Ancient Egyptians worshiped different Gods
- Ancient Egyptians built pyramids as tombs for their pharaohs and queens
- Ancient Greeks valued democracy and education
- Ancient Greeks trained soldiers for battles

Key Vocabulary

civilisation	a group of people with their own languages and way of life
trade	buying, selling or exchanging good and services
hieroglyphs	They used about 800 symbols to create writing, often on folded pages forming a book (codex)
monarch (king/queen)	The King/Queen was thought to be given the right to rule by the gods. Each city had a palace for them.
maize	The staple food of the Mayans which was so important that they even had a maize god.
pyramids	Built with a temple at the top to give sacrifices to the gods, others were built for the gods themselves



Cloud



Fire



Mountain



Sun



To scatter



Water