



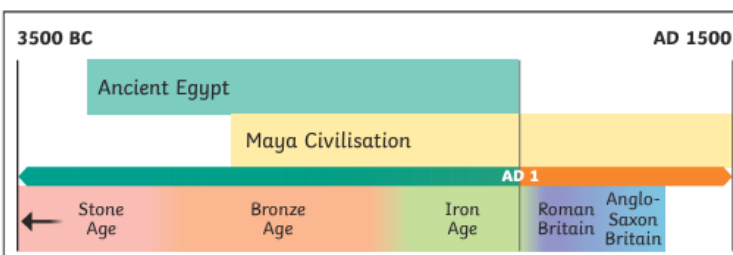
Y6 Thinking like a scientist

The Mayans

Key Knowledge:

- The Maya developed an advanced number system for their time. They were one of only two cultures in the world to develop the concept of zero as a placeholder.
- The Maya people mainly ate maize (corn). Maize was important to them as they believed that the first humans were made from maize dough by the gods.
- The Maya made a bitter chocolatey drink from cacao beans. It was used for medicines and in ceremonies. The cacao beans were highly valued and used as a form of money.
- The Maya believed in many gods and goddesses. They thought that the gods/goddesses had a good side and a bad side and that they could help or hurt them. The Maya people would dance, sing and make offerings to the gods/goddesses. Maya priests were believed to be able to communicate directly with the gods/

civilisation	A human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
drought	A long period of time with little or no rain.
jaguar	A big cat, heavier than a leopard, with yellowish fur and black spots.
scribes	People trained to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write.
codices	Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.
maize	Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas.
cacao beans	Cacao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When they are ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans, which can then be dried, roasted and ground.



Learning Questions

Where did the Maya live?

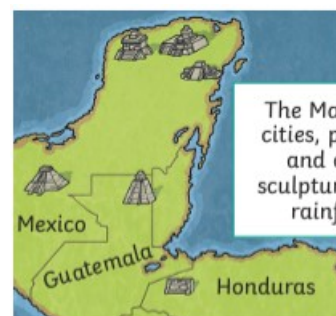
How did the Mayans live?

Why was farming important to the Mayans?

What did the Mayans believe?

What did the Mayans achieve?

What else do you know?



The Maya built cities, pyramids and ornate sculptures in the rainforest.

Cacao beans



Mayan numbers

