

| **History Knowledge Organiser Year 6**  **Unit: Why should we study the Maya?**  **Where and when did the Maya live?**  **What was Maya writing like?**  **How did the Maya tell the time?**  **What numbers did the Maya use in maths?**  **Did the Maya play football like us?**  **How do we know about the Maya?** | |
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| Need to know   * **The Maya were an ancient civilisation of people who lived in an area that used to be known as Mesoamerica. They first developed their civilisation around 2000 BC.** * **The Maya had a writing system made up of glyphs. Glyphs are signs that represent a word or sound.** * **The Myans had a 52 year calendar round that was detailed and complex. They used these calendars for farming.** * **Goods were transported by canoe or foot.** * **Cacao beans were very valuable and often used as a medium of exchange.** | Vocabulary  **Ancient civilisation -** the first settled and stable communities that became the basis for later states, nations, and empires.  **Mesoamerica** - was made up of countries in what we now know as Central America, and Southern Mexico.  **‘bajos’ ‘cenotes’ ‘chultuns’** (water storage) |
| Good to know   * The bean of the cacao tree, when processed, became the chocolate used in Maya sauces as well as daily drinks. Cacao beans can be roasted, then easily stored and transported – for that reason cacao became a medium of exchange (currency) in the great market economies of the Postclassic and contact periods. * Archaeologists suggest the Maya were the most advanced Mesoamerican culture. * The Maya first developed their civilisation in around 2000 BC (the Preclassic period). This period from 250 AD to c900 AD is called the *Classic* period. In around 1600 AD (the *postclassic period*) the Maya were conquered and destroyed by the Spanish invaders. * During the Maya civilisation, Britain went through the Stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages, including Stonehenge, to Roman Britain, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Tudor England. * The Maya used the vigesimal system for their calculations - a system based on 20 rather than 10. This means that instead of the 1, 10, 100, 1,000 and 10,000 of our mathematical system, the Maya used 1, 20, 400, 8,000 and 160,000. | * **Map** the current area of study on a timeline in relation to other periods. * **Analyse** a range of primary and secondary sources to find out about an aspect of the past. * Use factual knowledge to describe past societies, periods and events, **making connections** between them. * **Summarise** the beliefs and behaviour of people, recognising differences in views and feelings. |