

Mayans Knowledge Organiser Y5 Term 1

TIMELINE

1,100 BC

The first 'Mayan' settlements begin to appear in Mesoamerica along the pacific coast.



800BC

Instead of foraging, maize farming begins and trade between villages begins.



700BC

Mayan writing begins to develop through the form of hieroglyphs.



100BC – 450AD

Maya constructs its first pyramids and developing cities, prompting the rapid rise of Tikal in the tropical lowlands.



638AD

Pakal the Great (King of Palenque) dies. His death mask made of jade is created.



800AD – 1,502AD

Mayan civilization begins to decline and vanish. The Mayan ruins are found by a Spanish expedition lead by Francisco Hernández de Córdoba.



Chichen Itza: Chichen Itza is a well-preserved example of a Mayan city, located in what would have been Mesoamerica. It is a popular tourist destination as it shows a series of Mayan sculptures, pyramids and natural water sources through sinkholes.

Chaac: Chaac is the Mayan god of rain. The Maya believed that the best way to please their gods was through the sacrifice of animals or humans. If they were experiencing a drought, the belief was that Chaac was punishing them so they would need to sacrifice.

Sacrificing rituals: Sacrifices would often be through beheading or drownings. They were religious ceremonies that many people would attend.

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! A lot of Mayan stories would refer to the game of Pok-a-tok.

Headdresses: Headdresses were a large part of Mayan culture. It was believed that the larger the headdress that someone wore, the more important they were.

Pakal the Great: A king in Mesoamerica whose reign lasted more than 68 years, the longest lasting king in Ancient Maya. He built various intricate temples and was buried with a perfectly preserved jade mask.

VOCABULARY

Maya

The collective noun for the Mayan people.

Mesoamerica

The region in which the Maya lived, spanning over Mexico and parts of Southern America.

Pyramid

A 3D man-made structure that is built through large cuboids of rock piled upon one another to form a triangular shape.

Deity

A synonym for god.

Chichen Itza

One of the best-preserved examples of a Mayan city.

Legend

A story told that has a religious origin usually comprising of a mortal vs immortal being.

Hieroglyph

A symbol that has a worded meaning, read like our graphemes.

Maize

Corn – a major resource of food for Mayan people. Part of their religious culture too.

Sacrifice

A slaughtering of an animal or human as an offering to please the gods.