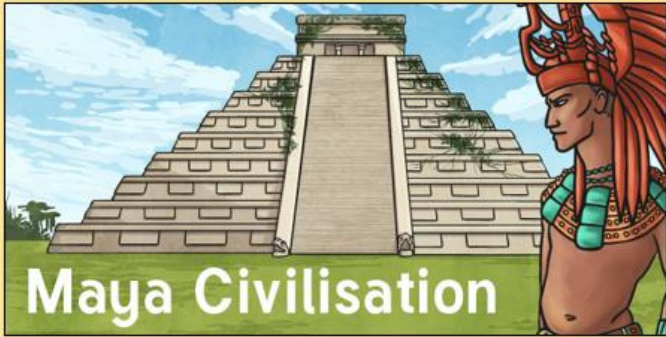


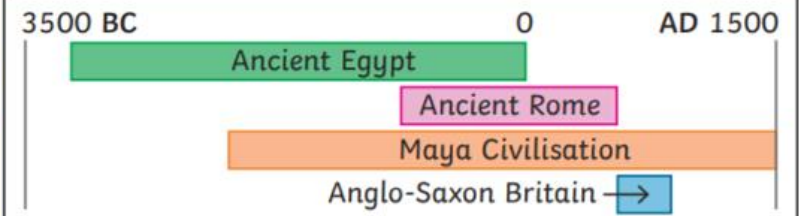
Year 5 Term 3 Knowledge Organiser

Why did the ancient Maya civilisation get lost into the jungle?

Ancient Maya used masks for a wide variety of reasons. The main material was wood, but other materials include: gold, jade, shell and obsidian!
Event masks were bright and vibrant and were designed on heavenly animals.
Death masks were the most sacred and protected the person into the afterlife.



Timeline



Religion

The Maya believed in and worshipped a number of different gods. They believed that the gods had a good side and a bad side and that the gods could help or hurt them. The Maya would dance, sing and sometimes make offerings of blood to the gods.

Priests were very important in Maya society as it was believed that they could communicate directly with the gods. They would perform different **rituals** during festivals or special ceremonies in order to appeal to the gods.



Writing

The Maya writing system, used to write several different Maya languages, was made up of over 800 symbols called glyphs. Some glyphs were logograms, representing a whole word, and some were syllabograms, representing units of sound. They were carved onto stone buildings and monuments and painted onto pottery. Maya **scribes** also wrote books, called **codices**, made from the bark of fig trees. Only priests and noblemen would know the whole written language.



Food

Maize was a very important crop that formed up to 80% of the Maya people's diets. They believed that the first humans were made from **maize** dough by the gods.

The Maya made a bitter chocolatey drink from **cacao beans** that was enjoyed by the rich and used for medicines and in ceremonies.

The beans were highly valued and even used as a form of money.



Key vocabulary

Prior	Core	Extension
hieroglyphics	sacrifice	Codices
deforestation	Re-discover	ritual
civilisation	maize	scribes
jaguar	constellation	Cacao beans



Chichen Itza – one of Ancient Maya's most famous temples. Also, a place Mr. Cullen has visited!

Maya's most famous game is 'Pok-a-Tok'. The game was sometimes used to settle disputes instead of going to war. This exciting ball game ends with a HUMAN SACRIFICE!



Inventions

0

The number 0! Maya was one of very few civilisations to discover the idea of 0 in counting.



Hot Chocolate! Using cacao beans, Ancient Maya made a hot drink. It was bitter though.



A Calendar! Ancient Maya invented a calendar up to 2012!



Writing! Maya used hieroglyphs to communicate ideas.

Key Events

2000 BC	The Maya civilisation comes into being in Central America.
300 BC	Cities, such as El Mirador, become large and powerful.
AD 900	Cities in the rainforest are abandoned due to an extensive drought . People move north to the highlands of Guatemala and the Yucatán.
AD 1000	Cities like Chichén Itzá (which has two temple pyramids) are still thriving.
AD 1500s	The Spanish arrive in South America and set out to destroy the remaining elements of Maya civilisation as part of their conquest.
AD 1839	American explorer and writer, John Lloyd Stephens, and British artist, Frederick Catherwood explore Copán and extensively document what they find, reigniting interest in the Maya civilisation . They go on to document other Maya cities, including Chichén Itzá.
AD 2014	The cities of Lagunita and Tamchén are rediscovered.



If the Maya were so advanced, what happened to them? There are many theories including: politics, war, famine and invasion by the Spanish.