

Magnificent Maya



Key Vocabulary

Achievement: A significant accomplishment or contribution that had a lasting impact.

Ancient: From a very long time ago.

Archaeologist: Someone who studies the buildings, graves, tools and other objects of people who lived in the past.

Civilisation: A large group of people with a common language, way of life and governance.

Creation: Something being made.

Currency: The type of money that a country uses for buying and selling goods and services.

Decline: A situation where something becomes less important or successful.

Mesoamerica: The historical region that is now Mexico and Central America.

Ritual: A set of actions or ceremonies performed in a fixed way, sometimes for religious purposes.

Theory: An idea that is intended to explain facts or events, often based on some evidence

Key Questions

How did the Ancient Maya settle in a rainforest?

How important was chocolate to the Ancient Maya?

What did the Ancient Maya believe?

How did the Ancient Maya reflect world beliefs in their inventions?

What do remains tell us about Ancient Mayan cities and what caused their decline?

Pre-Classic period From 2000 BC to AD 250, the Ancient Maya went from hunter-gatherers to living in cities.

Classic period From AD 250 to AD 900, the Ancient Maya thrived, invented and flourished.

Post-Classic period From AD 900 to 1524, this period saw the development of Chichen Itza, one of the largest and most magnificent Ancient Maya cities.

Contact and Spanish conquest period From 1524 to 1697, the Ancient Maya had more contact with the Europeans and the Spanish took control.

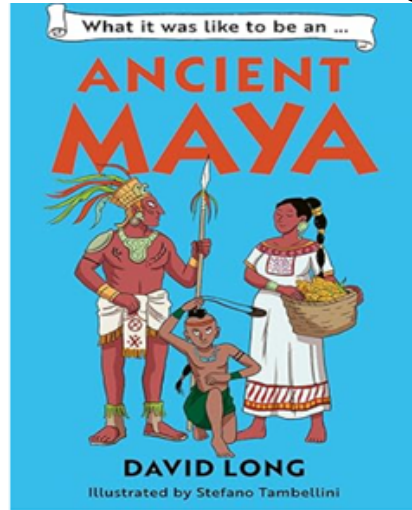
Key Knowledge

The Ancient Maya faced many challenges settling in the rainforest, including dangerous animals, dense vegetation and shady conditions, which made growing crops difficult. They solved these problems by slashing and burning trees to clear rainforest areas, becoming adaptable hunters and developing crops that could grow successfully in the conditions, such as cacao and maize.

The Ancient Maya developed many things and each invention was linked to their beliefs about the world. Some examples include the ball game, which was a form of telling stories about heroes and gods; calendars to know when to plant their crops and celebrate festivals that honoured the stars and the seasons; temples where people went to give gifts to their gods and writing used to write down important things, including stories about gods and goddesses.

Ancient Maya cities such as Tikal thrived in the Classic period. The cities had a grand plaza (main street) on which the most important buildings (such as temples, observatory towers, ball courts and palaces) were found. Ordinary people lived in houses on the outskirts of the city and the cities themselves were connected by roads. Historians have learned more about these cities from recent archaeological discoveries in the rainforest (e.g. hieroglyphics were discovered in the buildings).

This term, we are reading:



Science

In **Properties of Materials** we learn about different materials and what makes them special. We explore solids, liquids, and gases and find out if materials are hard, soft, bendy, stretchy, or strong. We do experiments to see how materials change when heated, cooled, bent, or stretched. We also learn why certain materials are used for everyday things, like metals for tools and plastics for containers.

Computing

Writing

This term, Kingfishers will be learning how to write effective instructions. We'll also be writing free verse poetry linked to our learning about the Ancient Maya.

RE

Our topic this term is titled 'Why do Hindus want to be good?' This unit covers key Hindu concepts about life, death and rebirth. Children will have the opportunity focus on different views about life after death and make comparisons to other religions.

PSHE

Rights and Respect

We'll learn about your own rights and the rights of others. We will explore how to treat people fairly, show respect, and value differences. Think about responsibilities at home, school, and in the community, and how to stand up for yourselves and others in a kind way. We will also learn how to recognise bullying or unfair treatment and understand ways to solve problems peacefully while respecting everyone.

Maths

Y4- Multiplication, division and angles.
Y5- Fractions, decimals and percentages;
Length, mass and capacity.

Art and Design/DT

Structures and architecture

We'll learn how to build strong structures like bridges that won't collapse. We'll discover how to make them sturdy using frames and supports, and choose the best materials to make them strong and attractive.

PE Ultimate frisbee

We'll learn the basic rules (no running with disc, turnovers), attacking principles (spacing, cutting to receive) and understand defensive strategies (close marking). We'll also recognise 'spirit of the game' (self-refereeing, fair play, respect)

Music