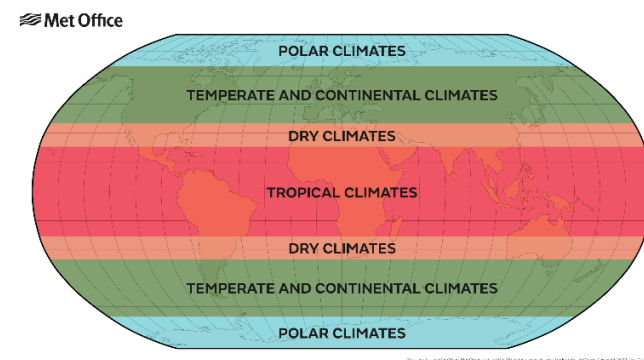
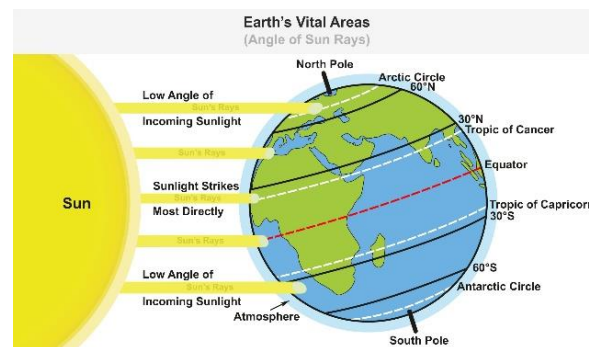


Key Questions: How did the weather affect the Mayans? Why was predicting the weather important to Mayans? Did climate change affect Mayan civilisation? What were the pro and cons of living near the equator for Mayans?

Overview: Children will investigate the type of climate that the ancient Mayans lived in and how the weather patterns impacted on their daily lives. They will look at the systems that they developed for predicting the weather and compare those to what we use today. They will learn about the role climate change played in the decline of the Mayan civilisation and consider the advantages and disadvantages of living so close to the equator.

climate zones	Areas of the world are divided into five different climate zones based on their rainfall and temperature
global warming	The gradual process of the Earth's temperature increasing
northern/southern hemisphere	The parts of the globe above and below the equator
Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer	Two imaginary lines that help divide the world into its climate zones. Cancer is 23 degrees north of the equator, Capricorn 23 degrees south
equator	An imaginary line around the centre of the Earth
decline	The process of something reducing in number or quality
drought	A time when there is not enough rain



Where did the Maya live?

Ancient Maya was in the same part of the world as modern Mexico. It consisted of mountain terrain and tropical rainforest. The area is near to the equator and has a tropical climate, meaning it is very hot and sunny with a high level of rainfall.

Mayan meteorologists!

The Ancient Mayans had their own system for predicting the weather - they recoded what it did for the first twelve days of the year and then used this to predict what the following twelve months would be like. They used this to help them plant and harvest their crops at the right times.

Climate crisis!

Climate change is something we hear a lot about nowadays, but it is not just a 21st century issue - The Ancient Maya found that their climate warmed up so much that it caused severe droughts and a huge decline in their whole civilisation!