



Mablethorpe Primary Academy knowledge Organiser

History - Non European comparative study

Years 5 and 6

Ancient Maya and the Vikings

During this theme:





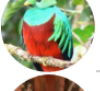



Studying the Maya offers fantastic opportunities to link with the Vikings. Whilst the Maya started earlier as a civilisation, they did live concurrently with each other for a long period of time and share many similar traits. With the children having learnt about the Vikings, following up with this helps to reinforce their previous learning by revisiting knowledge already acquired and using it to contextualise their learning about the Maya. You will compare many aspects of the Mayan and Viking societies, such as beliefs, housing and food, and reach your own conclusions regarding who left the biggest legacy.

Prior learning: You have previously studied the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons and have investigated aspects of society such as housing, beliefs, food and achievements

The ancient Maya were a civilisation that lived between 2000BC to around 1500AD. They lived in Mesoamerica, which is now known as Southern Mexico and Central America. They were an extremely successful civilisation and were highly advanced in writing, art and science for people living at that time. Temples and pyramids can still be seen today in the jungles of Central America.

Key Mayan vocabulary:



	Jade	Green stone used to make wonderful jewels		Cenote	Sink hole formed by collapse of rock into which Maya threw offerings
	Obsidian	Black glassy rock formed when volcanic lava cools		Codex-plural is codices	Collection of manuscript pages held together into early form of book
	Quetzal	Colourful tropical bird very important to the maya		Glyph	Written symbol used to present spoken words
	Ritual	Act that is always performed in same way as part of a religious ceremony		Hieroglyph	System of writing used by ancient Mayas made up of symbols that stand for words or syllables



Researchers believe that the Mayans cut down rainforests to make way for farming and to live on.

There was no central government kings and queens ruled individual towns and cities. They were thought to be god like. Laws were different which meant war could break out between different city states.

The Mayan calendar, or Tzolk'in, contains 20 Day Signs and 13 Galactic Numbers, which results in a 260-day calendar year. These ancient peoples had a lot of wisdom about our Earth and how we connect to it and through it, so their interpretation of astrology will allow us to venture deeper into the study of ourselves and this universe.