

Year 6 History Knowledge Organiser - The Maya

Key Vocabulary

 Yucatan Peninsula	 civilisation	 empire
 monument	 temple	 hieroglyphs
BC BC	AD AD	 timeline
 period	 chronology	 noble

Key Definitions

aqueduct- a watercourse constructed to carry water from far away.

biome- a large region of Earth with a certain climate.

cacao- a large seed from which chocolate is made.

calendar- a printed table showing the days, weeks and months of the year.

civilisation- human society which is organised.

cenote- a natural underground reservoir or water, usually found in Mexico.

empire- a group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country.

hieroglyphs- a system of writing using pictures not words.

maize- also known as corn, is a cereal grain.

temple- a building used for the worship of a God or Gods.

tomb- a large stone structure or underground room where someone important is buried.

quetzal- a tropical bird seen as sacred to the Maya people.



The Long Count Calendar



The Mayan Number System

0	1	2	3	4
	•	••	•••	••••
5	6	7	8	9
—	•	••	•••	••••
10	11	12	13	14
—	•	••	•••	••••
15	16	17	18	19
—	•	••	•••	••••

Pok-Ta-Pok game



A noble's headdress



Mayan monument



Chichen Itza

Temple of the Great Jaguar, Tikal



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.

