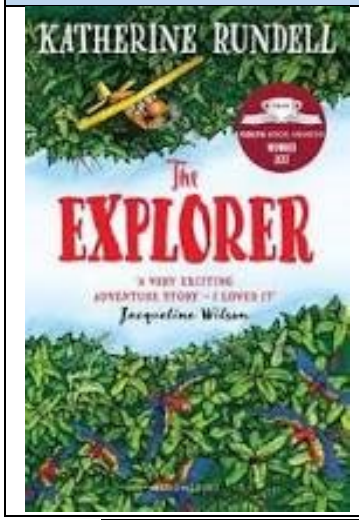
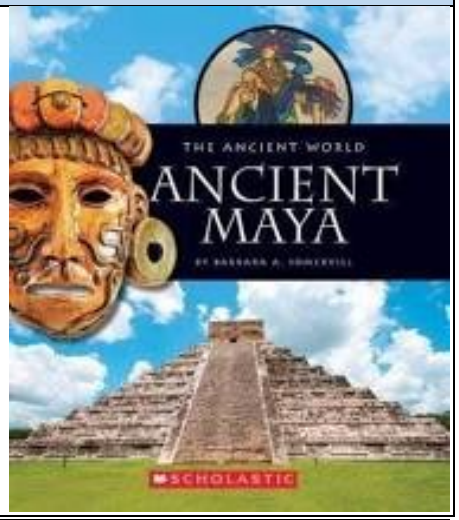
Bishop Monkton CE Primary School - History Knowledge Organiser—The Ancient Maya—Year 4,5,6

What should I already know?

- South America is a **continent**.
- The **climate** of South America is different to that of the UK.
- **Human** and **physical geographical** features of a region in South America.
- Other **civilisations** include the Egyptians and the Greeks.
- What **erosion** is and what impact it can have on land.
- The **chronology** of British history and where the Maya fit in that timeline.

Book Suggestions





Timeline

c 2000 BC: The Maya civilisation starts in Mesoamerica

c 250 CE: The Maya had now established cities. They had built monuments, pyramids and created a writing and maths system.

c 600 CE: The Maya population exceeded 5 million people. Excessive farming and therefore deforestation occurred as the cities grew and the land is believed to have become less fertile.

c 900 CE: The Maya civilisation appears to have collapsed. Cities are deserted. Perhaps due to **deforestation,** drought or war.

There are 7 million **indigenous** Maya people living in Central America.

Key Knowledge

- **Mayan** cities had similar layouts to each other. They would have a palace for the ruler, a **plaza** for the marketplaces and temples, in the form of **pyramids**.
- **Mayan** cities were often found near **trade** routes and good farmland.
- Mayans were **polytheists**, believing in many nature gods or **deities**.
- Priests were considered the most important people in the Mayan **culture**. Warriors, craftsmen and **traders** were next in the **hierarchy**. Farmers, workers and slaves were at the bottom of the **hierarchy**.
- **Mayan merchants traded** many goods including salt, cotton, honey and jade.
- The **Mayan** calendar (Tzolkin) consisted of 260 days and 13 months.
- It is thought that the **demise** of the **Mayan** civilisation came about because of a mixture of **deforestation**, land **erosion** and **drought** and maybe war.

Historical Skills and Enquiry

- Examine a variety of sources and use these to make inferences about the past - in particular about **Mayan economy**, **culture,** religious beliefs and **society.**
- Describe how the **Mayan civilisation** has had an impact on modern **society**.
- Examine the timeline of the **Mayan civilisation** and consider where there was rapid change and where there was very little change. Explain why this may the case.
- Compare what was happening in the **Mayan civilisation** with what was happening in Britain at the same time.
- Place the **chronology** of key events of the **Mayan civilisation** on a time line with a **chronology** of the history of Britain. Where are the overlaps?
- Compare the **Mayans** with the Greek and Egyptian **civilisations** using a Venn diagram.
- Describe the ideas, beliefs and attitudes of all groups of people in the **Mayan civilisation**.
- Use appropriate vocabulary to communicate about the **Mayans**.

Vocabulary

archeologist	someone who studies the past by exploring old remains
architecture	The art of designing and constructing buildings
Chichen Itza	a village in Yucatán state in Mexico: site of important **Mayan** ruins. A UNESCO World Heritage Site
chronology	the order of events in time
circa	Latin meaning 'around'. c. 800 BC means around 800 BC.
civilisation	a human **society** with its own social organisation and **culture**.
continent	a very large area of land that consists of many **countries**. South America is a **continent**.
culture	activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation
deforestation	all the trees there are cut down
deities	a god or goddess
demise	something or someone is their end or death
drought	a long period of time during which no rain falls.
economy	the wealth that a **society** or country gets from business and industry
erosion	the gradual destruction and removal of rock or soil
fertile	rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants
hierarchy	a system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance, for example in **society**
indigenous	people or things belong to the country in which they are found
Mayan	of, relating to, or characteristic of the Maya or any of their languages
merchant	a person who buys or sells goods in large quantities
Mesoamerica	Central America - the countries consist of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Belize; and the western sections of Honduras and Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica
plaza	an open square in a city.
polytheists	the worship of or belief in more than one god
society	people in general, thought of as a large organized group
trade	the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services