

Year 6



Knowledge Organiser: History

Inquiry Question: Who had the first chocolate factory?

Key Vocabulary

Astronomy	Calendar	Heiroglyphs	Maize	Numbers	Pok-a-tok
Pyramids	Sacrifice	Stelae	Civilisation	Drought	Rituals
Jaguar	Scribes	Codices	Cacao beans	Priests	Headdresses
Ideologies	Cultural context	Interpretation	Commemorate	Democracy	Advocate

In Year 5, you learnt:

Anglo Saxons, Vikings and Shang Dynasty

To make connections between two periods of history, to develop historical perspective
Make appropriate use of historical terms in discussion and understand concepts (local, regional, national, international)

Independently place historical events or change on a timeline remembering key facts from a period studied

In some ways....and....are alike. For instance....

However, they also differ in some ways. For example....

I am convinced....

The facts lead to....

Based on the evidence I have been presented with, I can conclude....

Key Facts

Mayan Dress - Commoners and slaves wore plain loincloths, but the elite added feathers, animal skins or gems. Noblemen covered their lower half with a colourful garment and wore large, elaborate headdresses. Women wore skirts and tunics. Footwear was simple, usually being barefoot or sandals.	Trade - Merchants drove their caravans cross country to trade with fellow Mayans and other Mesoamericans. The geography was so varied that they relied on trade to get the things they needed off each other, from maize, fish and salt to stingray spines (used for bloodletting) and valuable stones such as jade and obsidian.
Religion - The Maya believed in and worshipped a number of different gods. They believed that the gods had a good side and a bad side and that the gods could help or hurt them. The Maya would dance, sing and sometimes make offerings of blood to the gods. Priests were very important in Maya society as it was believed that they could communicate directly with the gods. They would perform different rituals during festivals or special ceremonies in order to appeal to the gods.	Upperworld and Underworld - The Maya people believed that the earth, which they called the Middleworld, was large and flat and resting on the back of a creature, such as a turtle or crocodile. On the Middleworld grew a tree whose branches reached up into the heavens (the Upperworld) and whose roots grew down into Xibalba (the Underworld), which was guarded by gods of death who looked like jaguars. Ordinary Maya people believed that, after they died, their souls would travel through a series of caves and tunnels to Xibalba. Rulers and noblemen believed that they had a chance of getting to the Upperworld.
Writing - The Maya writing system, used to write several different Maya languages, was made up of over 800 symbols called glyphs. Some glyphs were logograms, representing a whole word, and some were syllabograms, representing units of sound. They were carved onto stone buildings and monuments and painted onto pottery. Maya scribes also wrote books, called codices, made from the bark of fig trees. Only priests and noblemen would know the whole written language.	What happened to the Mayans? - Around 900, many cities in the southern lowlands were abandoned but states in the uplands of the Yucatan peninsula continued to flourish until the arrival of the Spanish in 1502. One belief is that the Toltecs and the Aztecs took over with their own empires but later, when the Spanish arrived, they brought disease and forced them to give up their gods and become Christians.

1100BC	800BC	400BC	300BC	2000BC	100BC	600	800	900	1502	2014
The first hunter-gatherers settle on the pacific coast	Village farming and trade become established	First solar calendars invented	Cities become centres for trade and Kings begin to rule	Maya civilisation comes into being	First pyramids are built	Cities start expanding quickly	Building of stepped pyramid of Chichen-Itza	Decline of Mayan Cities	First contact with Europeans is made	The cities of Lagunita and Tamchén are rediscovered.