



St Leo's and Southmead
Catholic Nursery and Primary
School

Year
Five

History Mayans Knowledge Organiser

Spring
Term

Amazing Activity

Key Knowledge

The Americas was first discovered in 1492 by Christopher Columbus.
Mexico became a Spanish colony.
Mesoamerica is an area of land between north and south America.
Mayans built temples for worship and palaces for kings.
The first writing is produced 292BC.
The first temple was built in 50BC.
Mayan society was organised into city states, each with its own King.
Mayan society was structured into king, nobles and priest, palace officials, craftsmen, farmers, labourers and slaves.
Gods ruled peoples lives and decisions such a gods of maize, sun and fire.
Mayans held special ceremonies to ask for blessings.
Mayan life was different depending on who you was in society.
Mayans had their own letters and numbers.
Mayans had three calendars.
Around 900AD records disappear and the cities vanish from history.

Substantives Concepts

Building, city, civilisation, conquest, culture, exploration, farming, knowledge, religion.



Skills

- Use dates to order and place events on a timeline.
- Compare sources of information available for the study of different times in the past.
- Understand that the type of information available depends on the period of time studied.
- Evaluate the usefulness of a variety of sources.
- Provide an account of a historical event based on more than one source.
- Understand some reasons for some important historical events.
- Use evidence to support arguments.

Curriculum Links

English– Mayan letters

Maths– Mayan numbers and calendars

Vocabulary

Conquistadors Colony Aztecs
Archaeologist Nobles codex



5000 BC - 2000 BC	Hunter-gatherers live in the rainforests and volcanic mountains.
2000 BC - 1000 BC	People begin to farm and settle in small villages. People copy the crafts of the Olmec people, including making pottery and carving with jade. Basic trade is developed.
900 BC	Farmers begin to use irrigation systems to help their plants to grow. This means larger settlements can form.
300 BC	The first cities begin to develop and the Mayan population grows rapidly.
292 BC	The first known Mayan writing is produced.
50 BC	The first temple is built in Cerros.
250 AD	The Maya begin their most powerful era. Astronomy, mathematics and architecture are all developing.
300 AD	The Maya adopt the idea of a monarchy and are now ruled by kings.
500 AD - 800 AD	Major cities develop and thrive, such as Tikal, Palenque, Uxmal and Copan. Fine temples and palaces are built and art, culture and religion all reach their peak.
800 - 900 AD	The major cities begin to decline and are eventually abandoned.

Nurture, Inspire, Succeed