

# History Knowledge Organiser: The Ancient Maya

At the end of this unit, I will be able to...



know that the Mayan civilization grew incredibly strong against all the odds.



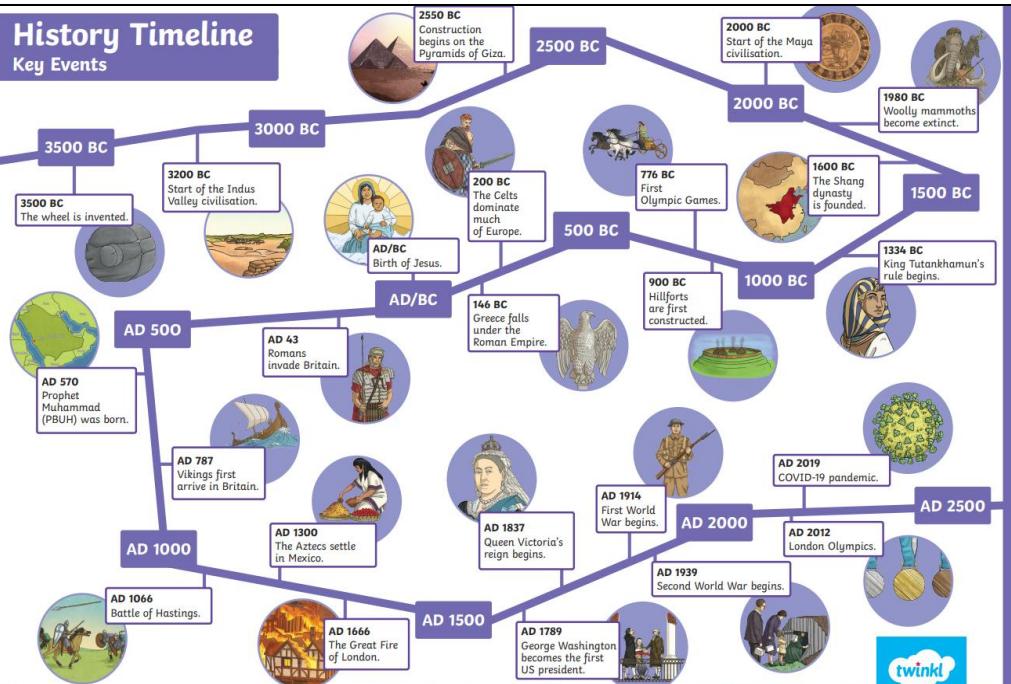
explore the characteristics features of the Mayan society and compare it with Britain at the same time



Say whether a source of evidence is useful or not.

## History Timeline

### Key Events



## Chronology

- 2000 BC - Farming villages begin to form across the Maya region.
- 1000 BC - The Maya begin to form larger settlements at places like Copan and Chalchuapa.
- 700 BC - Mayan writing first starts to develop.
- 600 BC - The Maya begin to farm. This enables their society to support larger populations and the cities begin to grow in size.
- 600 BC - The settlement at Tikal is formed. This will be one of the major cities in the Maya civilization.
- 400 BC - The first Mayan calendars are carved into stone.
- 300 BC - The Maya adopt the idea of a monarchy for their government. They are now ruled by kings.
- 100 BC - The first pyramids are built
- 400 AD - The city-state of Teotihuacan becomes the dominant city and rules over the Maya highlands.
- 900 AD - The collapse of the Maya, the reason for this is still a mystery to archeologists.

## Key Prior Knowledge

- KS1: events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally [for example, the Great Fire of London, the first aeroplane flight or events commemorated through festivals or anniversaries]
- KS2: The Ancient Greek, Romans and Egyptians have all been studied prior to Year 6.

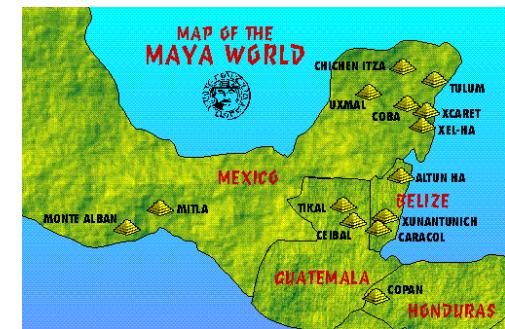
## Key information

- In the year 1000, settlements like Chichen Itza were among the largest settlements anywhere in the world. Tikal was thought to have a population as large as 60,000.
- At around AD700, the total population may have reached as high as 10-15 million according to estimates in 2018.
- There is a magnificent ball court where two team played a game in which players bounced a rubber ball on their hips, elbows and knees. The object was to get the ball through the stone rings on either side of the court. The 8" balls were made by gathering latex from rubber trees, something Europeans had never seen.
- At the Temple of Warriors, there are images of conquest with rivals painted with grey skins and the defenders with light skins with black horizontal stripes. The aggressors were probably the Toltecs.
- The Mayans drank chocolate but not as we know it. It was unsweetened and spiced with chili peppers. They even had a frother!
- They had an amazing astronomical observatory
- The reasons why the Mayan declined at that time (they weren't entirely wiped out) was probably due to drought and overworking of the soil .

### Key vocabulary

civilisation	A particular society at a particular time and place.
architecture	The art or practice of designing and constructing buildings.
curator	A keeper or custodian of a museum or other collection.
sacrifice	An act of slaughtering an animal or person or surrendering a possession as an offering to a deity.
significant	Sufficiently great or important to be worthy of attention.
speculate	Form a theory about a subject without firm evidence.
flourish	Develop successfully and rapidly.
hierarchy	A system where members are ranked according to their status.
prosperous	Bringing wealth and success

### K'inich Janaab' Pakal I



### Ancient ball game - pitz

