

# Year 3: When and where did the Maya civilisation exist? How does their culture exist today?



## Key Questions

1. When were the Maya first recognised by archaeologists?
2. Where are the regions of the Maya civilisation?
3. How and where did the Maya use logograms and hieroglyphs?
4. What can we learn about the Maya number system?
5. How did life compare for the rich and poor Maya?
6. Who were the Maya Gods and what did they believe?
7. Why was chocolate important to the Maya?
8. What ceremonies took place in the Maya temples and palaces?
9. What is life like for a Maya child?
10. How did the Maya use technology?

## Vocabulary

Maya, civilisation, logogram, hieroglyph, monument, temple, pyramid, codices, calendar, stelae, cacao beans, Gods, warrior, Copan stairway, Yucatan Peninsular, Northern/Southern lowlands, Highlands, Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, pre-classic, classic and post-classic.

## National Curriculum

### History

- Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources (including archaeological excavation, and the reliability of such sources).
- Construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.
- Note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms.
- Address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance.
- Understand the achievements of the earliest civilizations - an overview of where and when the first civilizations appeared
- Study a non-European society that provides contrasts with British history - Maya Civilisation

### Geography

- Ge2/1.1a locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities

## Curriculum Links

### English

- Participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role-play, improvisations and debates.
- Consider and evaluate different viewpoints, attending to and building on the contributions of others.
- Apply growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffix
- Retrieve and record information from non-fiction.
- Draft and write non-narrative material using simple organisational devices

### DT

- Select from and use a wider range of tools and equipment to perform practical tasks accurately.
- Select from and use a wider range of materials and components.

### Maths

- Develop their ability to solve a wider range of problems including increasingly complex properties of numbers and arithmetic

## Historical Dates

2000 BC - 1550 CE

# Year 3: Maya Civilisations - Home Learning



## Weblinks

[About the Maya](#) from theschoolrun.com

[The Spanish invasion of the Maya lands](#) from inneroptics.net

[Night time in Tikal](#) - YouTube clip

[BBC timeline of British history](#) from bbc.co.uk

[World history timeline](#) from timemaps.com

[The Maya today](#) from historymuseum.ca

[Maps of Maya area](#) from mayagis.smv.org

[The environment of the Maya lands](#) from history.com

[Information on the Maya codices](#) from mayacodices.org

[Information on Maya writing](#) from ancientscripts.com

[The Dresden codex in a museum](#) - YouTube clip

[The Maya number system and how to teach it using sticks, stones and shells](#) - YouTube clip

[Games to help children understand the Maya number system](#) from maya.nmai.si.edu

[The meaning of calendar hieroglyphs](#) from maya.nmai.si.edu

[The Maya calendar](#) from historyonthenet.com

[Information for children about Maya cities](#) from mayas.mrdonn.org

[Information for children on the Maya temples and pyramids](#) from ducksters.com

[Information on traditional Maya homes](#) from mayadiscovery.com

[Children's guide to the art of the Ancient Maya](#) from ducksters.com

[All about chocolate](#) from thestoryofchocolate.com

[Early history of cacao](#) from history.com

[The cacao tree and how the beans are processed into chocolate](#) - YouTube clip

[Weave a Maya mat](#) - YouTube clip

## Suggested Activities

- ✓ Create a timeline
- ✓ Use an online map or an atlas to explore the Maya regions. List the humans and physical features.
- ✓ Find out how their writing was used? Try writing and drawing your own words including your name.
- ✓ Investigate the Dresden Code.x and make a fact sheet.
- ✓ Make a Maya calendar
- ✓ Create a Venn diagram to show how the lives of rich and poor compare.
- ✓ Create Top Trump cards for their Gods
- ✓ Make a hot chocolate and then write up the instructions
- ✓ Re-enact a Maya ceremony or festival. You could even video it!
- ✓ Write a diary as if you were a Maya child
- ✓ List the materials Maya would've used for everyday items. Do we use any of these?

## Further Topics

Maya games - research Pok-ta-Pok and explore what the rules are.

Modern day Maya - Do they differ from the ancient Maya civilisations?

Clothing - Create your own Maya fashions on paper or from materials found at home

Food - Research recipes and make a meal. You could have a Maya themed evening meal!

Music - Listen to some traditional music. What instruments can you hear? Discuss the music with others.

