



We are learning about the Mayans because...



We want our pupils to share a sense of **belonging** to our **world**. Through the curriculum we will explore **the World** in which we **belong**.

In this unit, we want pupils to have a good awareness of places beyond York.



We want to **encourage** pupils to be **creative** and **curious** about the world around them.

Key Questions:

What were the Mayans and when did they reign?

The Maya were a civilisation who lived in Mesoamerica (now Central America) between approximately 2000 BCE and 900 CE. Around 900 CE, Maya cities became abandoned. When the Spanish arrived in around 1500 CE they set out to conquer the remaining Mayans.

What was life like for a Maya?

Mayan settlements are large cities built in stone. Built without cartwheel or metal tools. Although we might think that they were not very civilised because they believed the gods needed offerings of human sacrifice, in fact they were very knowledgeable about the stars and even had their own calendars

How was life different from other civilizations?

At the time when the Saxons were fighting the Vikings in Britain, Mayan society had large cities, sophisticated stone buildings, such as temples, and complicated systems for writing and counting.

What legacies did they leave behind?

They left legacies behind, just like the Vikings in Britain, They developed writing. They also had a sophisticated culture in which they lived in city states. They built spectacular monuments and stepped pyramids.

Key texts we will read:



The Chocolate Tree
- A Mayan Folktale



The Hero Twins
graphic novel

Key vocabulary we will learn:

evidence, source, artefacts, reliability, archaeology, primary, secondary

civilization, emperor, monarch, ruler, conflict, tribes, settlements

The Mayans

The Maya are native Americans of Mesoamerica (Central America), who built a great civilization in the tropical rainforest that lasted for over 2000 years. The earliest settlements were built in around 2000 BC to the peak of Maya civilization between 250 - 900 AD. Suddenly, in 900 AD, many significant Maya settlements were abandoned, however some cities like Chichén Itzá still thrived.



Key subjects taught:

- History - Non-European society,
- Geography - Locational knowledge (North (central) America)
- Art - Mayan clay sculpture
- Science - Living things and their habitats.

