



History	KS2: Year 5
What was significant about the achievements of the Maya Civilisation?	



What I already know:

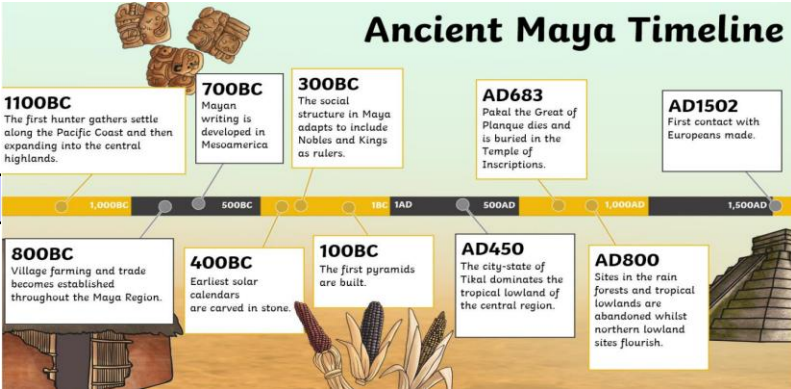
- Significant events have happened before our living memory (such as the Great Fire of London in 1666, Shackleton exploration, Drake. (KS1)
- Stone Age to Iron Age, Ancient Egypt, Romans, Ancient Greece (KS2).

Enquiry questions:

Where and when did the Maya civilisation exist?
 How do we know about the Maya and how useful are the sources?
 How did the Mayans dress and how do we know?
 How did they deal with their environment in order to farm food? Was this a significant achievement?
 How do Maya religious beliefs compare to other ancient civilizations?
 What were their achievements?
 Why did the civilisation end?

New knowledge:

The Maya were a civilisation who lived in Mesoamerica over a long period of time (see timeline).
 Written sources and artefacts from the time tell us about everyday life.
 Mayans believed in many different gods.
 They were skilled farmers and used the environment effectively.
 They built cities, including public buildings (pyramids etc).
 They created a number and writing system and had a set of calendars to mark events.
 The civilisation ended due to over population, climate change, war, and invasion.



Vocabulary:	
Maya	The collective noun for Mayan people.
Mesoamerica	The region in which the Maya lived, spanning Mexico and parts of Southern America.
pyramid	A 3D man-made structure that is built through large cuboids of rock piled upon one another to form a triangular shape.
hieroglyph	In the writing system of the Mayans, signs and images represented words.
sacrifice	A sacrifice is giving something up . In Mayan religion, it usually is about giving something to God or gods (could be human or animal).
civilisation	A human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
codices	Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.

