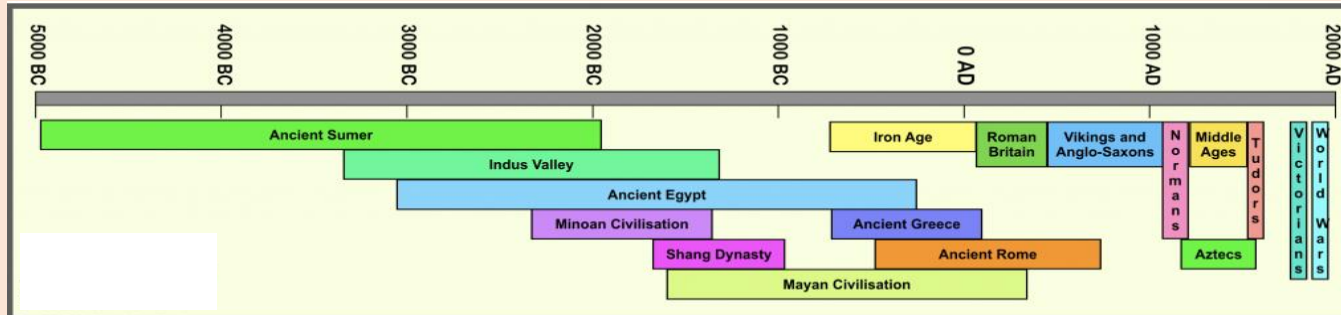


Discover Enquiry – How can we learn from the past?

Sticky Knowledge



- Religion** The Maya believed in and worshipped a number of different gods. They believed that the gods had a good side and a bad side and that the gods could help or hurt them. They would perform different rituals during festivals or special ceremonies in order to appeal to the gods. The Maya people believed that the earth, which they called the Middleworld, was large and flat and resting on the back of a creature, such as a turtle or crocodile. On the Middleworld grew a tree whose branches reached up into the heavens (the Upperworld) and whose roots grew down into Xibalba (the Underworld), which was guarded by gods of death who looked like jaguars.
- Food** Maize was a very important crop that formed up to 80% of the Maya people's diets. They believed that the first humans were made from maize dough by the gods. The Maya made a bitter chocolatey drink from cacao beans that was enjoyed by the rich and used for medicines and in ceremonies. The beans were highly valued and even used as a form of money.
- Writing** The Maya writing system, used to write several different Maya languages, was made up of over 800 symbols called glyphs. The Maya developed a complex number and counting system that was advanced for their time. They were one of only two cultures in the world to develop the concept of zero. The Maya people used just three symbols in their number system. These are thought to represent items that the Maya people might have first used to count with, such as pebbles, sticks and shells.



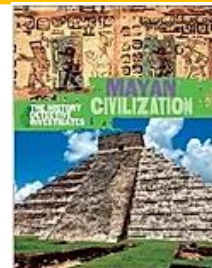
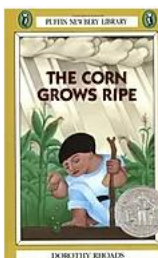
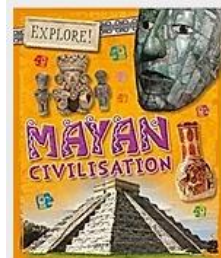
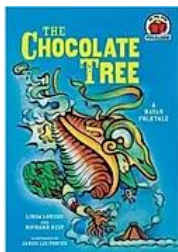
Crucial Connections

There are a number of video clips and activities on the following websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svc>
[w](#)

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/mayan>

Reading Recommendations



Values
Courage

Aspirations

Archaeologist, Translator, Historian, Anthropologist, Illustrator

Vital Vocabulary

civilisation	An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time.
drought	A long period with very little rain.
ritual	A ceremony, often religious, with set actions performed in a set order.
jaguar	A big cat, heavier than a leopard, with yellowish fur and black spots.
scribes	People paid to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write.
codices	Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.
maize	Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas.
caCao beans	CaCao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When they are ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans, which can then be dried, roasted and ground.