



Lyng Primary School Knowledge Organiser



History Topic:

The Maya Civilisation - How did the Maya civilisation compare to the Anglo-Saxons?

Year 6
Civilisation, Communication and Inventions

Autumn 2



Let's recap...

Year 4 – The children have compared Anglo Saxon and Ancient Maya homes.

Year 4 – The children will have studied the Maya number system.

Year 4 - The children study the main beliefs of the Ancient Maya (Gods).

What Step On and Goldilocks words will I use?



Spelling	Definition
agriculture	Farming – growing crops and rearing animals.
astronomy	The study of space, planets, stars and the universe.
calendar	A system used to divide up and organise events in time.
civilisation	The society, culture and a way of life of a particular area.
city – state	A large, independent city running the surrounding area.
codices	Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.
crops	A plant that is grown on a large scale – usually wheat, fruit or vegetables.
drought	A prolonged period of no rain, leading to water shortages.
hieroglyphics	Writing which is made up of pictorial symbols.
sacrifice	An act of slaughtering an animal or a person as an offering to a God or Gods.
settlement	A place where people establish a community.
logograms	Logograms are symbols or pictures that stand for whole words or ideas.
Syllabograms	Syllabograms are symbols that represent syllables — the small sound parts in words (like "ma," "ka," or "tu").
Mesoamerica	Mesoamerica is a name for an area in Central America where ancient people like the Maya and Aztecs lived.

When? (Timeline of key events)

2500 BC– 910 AD	Start and end of the Ancient Mayan civilisation
250 AD	Start of classical period of Mayan civilisation
900 AD	Anglo-Saxons control England
1519- 1521 AD	Spanish invaders (conquistadors) arrive in Mesoamerica
1813	American explorer and writer, John Lloyd Stephens, and British artist, Frederick Catherwood, explore Copán reigniting interest in the Maya civilisation.
21st December 2012	The Mayans predicted the end of the world would happen on this date - fortunately, they were wrong!

Hook

Let's say we live near the volcano...



Children make a volcano.

TRIP/VISITOR

Cadbury World to complete a Maya workshop!

Did you know?

The Mayan idea of beauty included a flattened forehead, cross eyes, tattoos, teeth filing and large noses!

To discover more:

BBC Bitesize Ancient Maya - [Maya Civilisation - KS2 History - BBC Bitesize](#)

National Geographic - [Mayan civilisation primary resource | National Geographic Kids](#)

Our Storytelling Approach to enhance engagement

People: Citizens of Colima (Jorge Mendez – he was there at the last eruption and survived. He thinks that nothing will happen to him even though volcanologists suspect the eruption will be the most destructive yet).



Place: Colima, Mexico



Problem: The volcano is about to erupt and the citizens need to evacuate the area. Where are they going to go? How are they going to get there?



Key Historical Facts

Focus Text

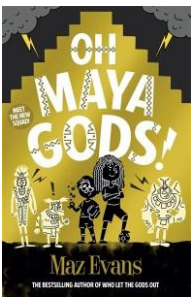
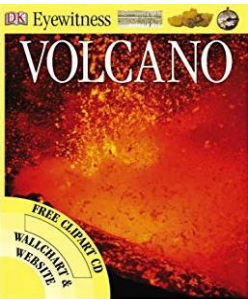
Maya Writing System
The Maya writing system was used to write several different Maya languages. It was made up of many symbols called glyphs. Logograms are glyphs representing whole words. Syllabograms are glyphs representing units of sound (syllables). The glyphs were carved on stone buildings and monuments and painted on pottery. Maya scribes also wrote books called codices.



Life in the rainforest
The Maya faced many challenges settling in the rainforest including dangerous animals, dense vegetation and shady conditions, which made growing crops difficult. They solved these problems by slashing and burning trees to clear rainforest areas, becoming adept hunters and developing crops that could grow successfully in the conditions, such as cocoa and maize.



Comparison to Anglo-Saxons
Anglo Saxons settled in Britain from around 400 AD to 1066 AD. The Maya civilization was at its peak in Mesoamerica from 250 AD to 900 AD. Interestingly, although these civilizations occurred at a similar period of time, their lives were very different.



We will be reading a variety of non-fiction texts based on volcanoes. We shall also be exploring a new class novel – Oh Maya Gods' by Maz Evans

Enquiry questions that we shall investigate during the topic:

- **Who** were the **Maya** and **where** did they **live**?
- **How** did the **Maya settle** in the **rainforest**?
- **How** did the Maya civilisation **compare** to the Anglo-Saxons?
- **How** did the **Maya writing system** work?
- **Why** did the **Spanish attack**?
- **What** can **archaeological remains** tell us about the Maya?
- **The decline of the Maya cities: man-made or natural disaster?**

Agreed Outcome
A persuasive letter to Jorge Mendes convincing him to evacuate.



Lyng Primary School Knowledge Quiz



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Our Mayan Quick Quiz

1. What was the purpose of Maya masks?	S	E
a) Worn in battle		
b) Decoration in the house		
c) Worn at death		

2. What was a challenge faced by the Maya in the rainforest?		
3.		
S =		
E =		

4. Mayans added chilli to cocoa powder to enjoy as a drink	S	E
True or False		

5. The number and writing system that the Maya developed was similar to...	S	E
The Vikings		
The Egyptians		
The Saxons		

6. Who conquered the Maya, ending their rule?	S	E
The Spanish		
The British		
The Vikings		

Start - End -

6. The Mayan people were successful at farming because	S	E
a) They were strong.		
b) Studied the stars and weather		
c) Had been taught by their ancestors		

7. What did the Maya invent something that was more detailed than ours today?	S	E
a) Number system		
b) Writing system		
c) A calendar		

8. Describe a similarity with the Maya and the Anglo-Saxons.		
S =		
E =		

9. What's a drought?	S	E
a) Not enough rainfall, leading to a lack of water.		
b) Not enough food,.		
c) Not enough weapons, leading to war.		

10. Describe a difference between the Anglo-Saxons and the Maya.		
S =		
E =		