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| \\lyng-dc1\StaffShared\Learning Bugs Animals ALL subjects\characters bugs animals\Cyril the Snail - History.jpeg**Lyng Primary School Knowledge Organiser** | | | |
| **History Topic:** | **How did the Maya show beliefs?** | Year 4  *Battles, Beliefs and Buildings* | Spring |



**Background information for parents and teachers**

The Maya civilisation began a long ago in a place called '**Mesoamerica**'. This huge area is made up of Mexico and part of Central America. The Mayas built amazing cities**.** Even though they lived in different cities, ruled by different kings and queens, the Mayas shared a lot of common beliefs and traditions. They were experts at reading the stars. They were also inspired by the creatures of the forest and shared many legends about animals, plants and nature spirits. They believed in many Gods and built wonderful creations.

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| **What Step On and Goldilocks words will I use?** | |
| **Spelling** | **Definition** |
| Archaic | Extremely old or old-fashioned |
| Astrology | is the study of the movements of the planets, sun, moon, and stars in the belief that these movements can have |
| Astronomy | The scientific study of the stars, planets, and other natural objects in space. |
| Deity | A god or goddess. |
| Hierarchy | A hierarchy is a system of organizing people into different ranks or levels of importance, for example in society or in a company. |
| High priest | At the third position in the hierarchy of Mayan politics was the high priest. The high priest led a hierarchy of priests. He was also responsible for foretelling auspicious events for the ruler and finding the dates of ceremonies and festival. |
| Maya | a member of an indigenous people of Yucatan, Belize, and N. Guatemala, having an ancient culture once characterized by outstanding achievements in architecture, astronomy, chronology, painting, and pottery |
| Mayan | of, relating to, or characteristic of the Maya or any of their languages/  a family of Central American languages |
| Mesoamerica | Another name for central America |
| Pagan | Pagan beliefs and activities do not belong to any of the main religions of the world and take nature and a belief in many gods as a basis. |
| Temple | A building used for the worship of a god or gods |
| sacrifice | To sacrifice an animal or person means to kill them in a [special](https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/special) religious ceremony as an offering to a [god](https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/god). |

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| **When? (Timeline of key events)** | |
| 2000 BC | Mayan civilisation begins. |
| 700 BC | Mayan writing first starts to develop. |
| 400 BC | The first Mayan calendars are carved into stone. |
| 300 BC | The Maya adopt the idea of a monarchy for their government. They are now ruled by kings. |
| 100 BC | The first pyramids are built. |
| 900 AD to 1500 AD | Cities collapse and some places are abandoned. The reason for the collapse of the Maya Classic period is still a mystery to archaeologists. |
| 800 AD | Sites in the rainforest abandoned. |
| 1250 AD | Chichen Itza is abandoned. |
| 1502 AD | First contact with Europeans. |
| 1519 AD | Hernan Cortes arrives and explores the Yucatan Peninsula |
| 1541 AD | Many of the Maya city-states are conquered by the Spanish. |
| Modern day | The modern day Maya still live within the boundaries of their old empire in Central America. |



**Hook**

**LET’S SAY  
Mayan sacrifice**

Children imagine they are taking part in a Mayan sacrifice, where the high priest will sacrifice parts of a Mayan body to the Gods and others will keep their ranking on the temple.

**TRIP/ VISITOR**

**Wyre Forest-** Compare to a Mayan rainforest (HOOK)

**Cadbury World-** A tour of a Mayan village, with Mayan people and their history. (End of topic)



**Our Storytelling Approach to enhance engagement**

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| **People:**  Mayan tribe | **Place:**  Mexico and Central America | **Problem:**  Should I be sacrificed to the Gods |

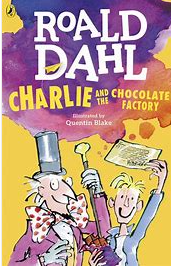
**Focus Text**

**Key Facts and Famous Figures**

**Maya Gods**- The Maya believed in a large number of nature gods. Some gods were considered more important and powerful than others.   
  
Itzamna - The most important Maya god was Itzamna. Itzamna was the god of fire who created the Earth. He was ruler of heaven as well as day and night. The Maya believed that he gave them the calendar and writing. It is thought that his name means "lizard house".   
  
Kukulkan - Kukulkan was a powerful snake god whose name means "feathered serpent". He was the primary god of the Itza people in the latter part of the Maya civilization. He is often drawn to look like a dragon.   
  
Chaac - Chaac was the god of rain and lightning. He had a lighting axe that he used to strike the clouds and produce rain and storms.   
  
**Divine Kings** The kings of the Maya served as intermediaries between the people and the gods. In some ways the kings were thought to be gods themselves.

**Priests**- The priests were responsible for performing rituals to keep the people in the favor of the gods. They were very powerful. In the *Book of the Jaguar Priest*, the duties of the priests are described in detail.

Hernan Cortes- a Spanish Conquistador who led an expedition that caused the fall of the Aztec Empire and brought large portions of what is now mainland Mexico under the rule of the King of Castile in the early 16th century.





* I can use evidence to ask questions and find answers about the past.
* Use more than one source of evidence for historical enquiry in order to gain a more accurate understanding of history.
* I can describe the characteristic features of the past, including ideas, beliefs, attitudes and experiences of men, women and children.
* I can use dates and terms to describe events.
* I can use appropriate historical vocabulary to communicate
* I can use literacy, numeracy and computing skills to a good standard in order to communicate information about the past.

**Agreed Outcome**

To understand the beliefs of the Mayans and their Pagan views.  
To understand how the Spanish invasion has influenced the current Maya culture.

**Key skills – Taken from Milestone 2 – Sequence of Learning**

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| \\lyng-dc1\StaffShared\Learning Bugs Animals ALL subjects\characters bugs animals\Cyril the Snail - History.jpeg**Lyng Primary School Knowledge Organiser** | | | |
| **Topic:** | **How did the Maya show their beliefs?** | Year 4  *Battles, Beliefs and Buildings* | Autumn |

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| 6. Which of these mammals did Maya people keep as a domestic animal? | **S** | **E** |
| 1. Dog |  |  |
| 1. Horse |  |  |
| 1. Cow |  |  |

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| 7. What was the name of the ancient Maya ball game that resulted in death? | **S** | **E** |
| 1. Pitz |  |  |
| 1. Soccer |  |  |
| 1. Death ball |  |  |

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| 8. What happened to the Maya civilisation? | **S** | **E** |
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| 9. Who explored the Yucatan Peninsula and began to conquer Mayan cities? | **S** | **E** |
| 1. Hernan Cortes |  |  |
| 1. Adolf Hitler |  |  |
| 1. Itzamna |  |  |

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| 10. How many Mayans are living today? | **S** | **E** |
| 1. None |  |  |
| 1. Over 7 million |  |  |
| 1. 500-1000 |  |  |

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| 1. When did the Maya civilisation begin? | **S** | **E** |
| 1. Between 2000 B.C. - 250 A.D |  |  |
| 1. 1066 AD |  |  |
| 1. 0 BC |  |  |

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| 2. What religion did the Mayan’s follow? | **S** | **E** |
| a) Christianity |  |  |
| b) Spanish |  |  |
| C) Paganism |  |  |

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| 3. What is the name of the most important Mayan deity? | **S** | **E** |
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| 4. Which of the following was considered to be beautiful by the Maya? | **S** | **E** |
| a) Cross eyed |  |  |
| b) Large ears |  |  |
| c) Big feet |  |  |

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| 5. Maya temples could be found on top of what kind of pyramids? | **S** | **E** |
| 1. Circular pyramids |  |  |
| 1. Step pyramids |  |  |
| 1. Egyptian pyramids |  |  |