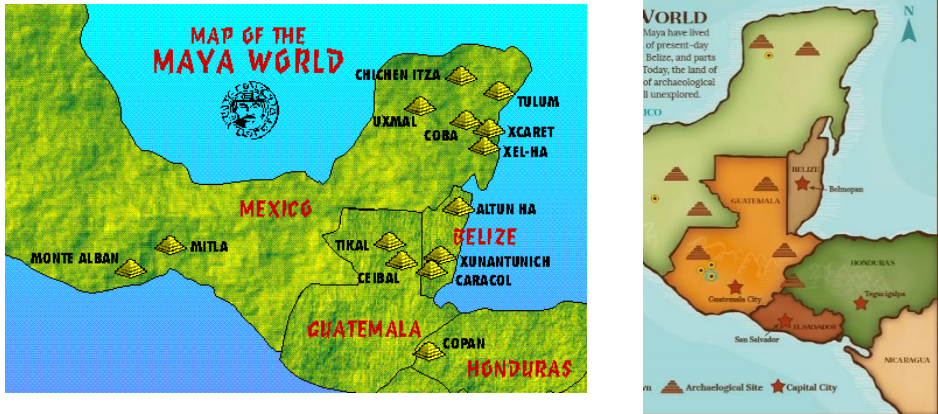




# St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School

Aiming For Excellence - Being The Best We Can Be

## Year 6 Knowledge Organiser-Mayan Civilisation

What should I already know?		Vocabulary		Important facts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South America is a continent.</li><li>• The climate of South America is different to that of the UK.</li><li>• Human and physical geographical features of a region in South America.</li><li>• Other civilisations include the Egyptians and the Greeks.</li><li>• What erosion is and what impact it can have on land.</li><li>• The chronology of British history.</li></ul>		<b>archaeologist</b>	someone who studies the past by exploring old remains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mayan cities had similar layouts to each other. They would have a palace for the ruler, a plaza for the marketplaces and temples, in the form of pyramids.</li><li>• Mayan cities were often found near trade routes and good farmland.</li><li>• Mayans were polytheists, believing in many nature gods or deities.</li><li>• Priests were considered the most important people in the Mayan culture. Warriors, craftsmen and traders were next in the hierarchy. Farmers, workers and slaves were at the bottom of the hierarchy.</li><li>• Mayan merchants traded many goods including salt, cotton, honey and jade.</li><li>• The Mayan calendar (Tzolkin) consisted of 260 days and 13 months.</li><li>• The demise of the Mayan civilisation came about because of a mixture of deforestation, land erosion and drought.</li></ul>
Timeline	<p><b>c. AD 250:</b> By this stage, the Maya had many established cities. They had many monuments, pyramids and devised a writing and maths.</p> <p><b>c. AD 600:</b> The Mayan population exceeded 5,000,000 people. Excessive farming and deforestation due to overflow from the cities were commonplace and this led to land becoming less fertile.</p> <p><b>c. AD 840:</b> The quality of the fields is poor, and this combined with land erosion, leads to a drought.</p> <p><b>c. AD 900:</b> Many Mayan cities are deserted due to deforestation, drought and war.</p> <p><b>Today,</b>there are still 7 million indigenous Mayan people living in Central America.</p>	<b>architecture</b>	the art of planning, designing and constructing buildings	
		<b>Chichen Itza</b>	a village in Yucatán state in Mexico: site of important Mayan ruins. A UNESCO World Heritage Site	
		<b>chronology</b>	the order of events in time	
		<b>circa</b>	Latin meaning ‘around’. c. 800 BC means around 800 BC.	
		<b>civilisation</b>	a human society with its own social organisation and culture	
Diagrams		<b>climate</b>	the general weather conditions that are typical of a place	
		<b>continent</b>	a very large area of land that consists of many countries. South America is a continent	
		<b>culture</b>	activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation	
		<b>deforestation</b>	if an area is deforested, all the trees there are cut down	
		<b>deities</b>	gods and goddesses	
		<b>demise</b>	something or someone is their end or death	
		<b>drought</b>	a long period of time during which no rain falls	
		<b>economy</b>	the wealth that a society or country gets from business and industry	
		<b>erosion</b>	the gradual destruction and removal of rock or soil	
		<b>fertile</b>	rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants	
		<b>hierarchy</b>	a system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance	
		<b>indigenous</b>	people or things belong to the country in which they are found	
		<b>Mayan</b>	of, relating to, or characteristic of the Maya or any of their languages	
		<b>merchant</b>	a person who buys or sells goods in large quantities	
		Artefacts/Sources		<b>Mesoamerica</b>
<b>plaza</b>	an open square in a city			
<b>polytheism</b>	the worship of or belief in more than one god			
Historical Skills and Enquiries		<b>society</b>	people in general, thought of as a large organized group	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Examine a variety of sources and use these to make inferences about the past - in particular about Mayan economy, culture, religious beliefs and society.</li><li>• Describe how the Mayan civilisation has had an impact on modern society.</li><li>• Examine the timeline of the Mayan civilisation and consider where there was rapid change and where there was very little change. Explain why this may be the case.</li><li>• Compare what was happening in the Mayan civilisation with what was happening in Britain at the same time.</li><li>• Place the chronology of key events of the Mayan civilisation on a time line with a chronology of the history of Britain. Where are the overlaps?</li><li>• Compare the Maya with the Greek and Egyptian civilisations using a Venn diagram.</li><li>• Describe the ideas, beliefs and attitudes of all groups of people in the Mayan civilisation.</li><li>• Use appropriate vocabulary to communicate about the Maya.</li></ul>		