bject: History Year group: Year 6	
Prior Learning	Unit of Learning: Ancient Civilisation - Ancient Maya
Year 3 – Prehistory – from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, Roman Britain	This unit is structured around 2 sequential history enquiries:
Year 4 – Anglo-Saxons and Viking invasion and settlement, Ancient Egypt	What evidence tells us about the ancient civilisation of the Maya?
Year 5 – Ancient Greece, Tudors – Why did Henry VIII marry 6 times?, Industrial	What happened to this ancient citilisation?
Revolution-Victorian Britain	

National Curriculum Links:

A non-European society that provides contrasts with British history – one study chosen from: early Islamic civilization, including a study of Baghdad c. AD 900; <u>Mayan civilization c. AD 900</u>; Benin (West Africa) c. AD 900-130

Ancient Maya – A study of Maya life and achievements and their influence on the western world.

Children should know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world including the nature of ancient civilisations.

The emphasis throughout this unit is on developing the children's skills of historical enquiry including how evidence is used to make historical claims, and on developing their understanding of historical concepts such continuity and change, similarity and difference, and significance.

Autumn Term				
Concept Thread	Historical Knowledge	Line of Enquiry	Vocabulary and Resources	
Power Empire, Monarchy - Kings Warfare	To know who the Ancient Maya were and to be able to locate their civilisation on a timeline. To be able to locate Ancient Maya on a timeline and discuss where this fits in relation to the other periods	Chronology – Creating a timeline Create a timeline to go on a line across the classroom – look at the historical units they have covered already and place the Ancient Maya on that timeline. Reflect on similarities and differences between Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greeks.	Images of modern/ancient Maya e.g. world map – Identifying where	
Religion Gods (165) and religious beliefs in ancient Maya. Maya mythology and the legacy of their	and societies they have studied so far. Also use this to get across the longevity of Ancient Maya. The Spanish in the 16 th century (see Maya timeline PlanBee) Where did the Maya live?	Ancient Maya Timeline 700BC The for manage gothers settle wind you are story or the control of	the Maya people lived – Central America and Southern Mexico (Mesoamerica)	
stories. Temples and pyramids	Maya civilization occupied much of the north-western part of the isthmus of Central America, from Chiapas and Yucatán, now part of southern Mexico, through	SODBC Prince forward and credit SOURC Prince forward and credit Sources of plantage for the forward and prince forward and prince for the forward and pr	Maya artefacts from the Warmsworth history display	
Technology / Inventions	Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, and El Salvador and into Nicaragua. Maya people still live in the same region today.	Per contract in the second sec	Photograph packs	

Maya inventions and discoveries that made an impact on the way we live in our modern world.

The Ancient Mayans developed the science of astronomy, a calendar systems, and hieroglyphic writing. They were also known for creating elaborate ceremonial architecture, such as pyramids, temples, palaces, and observatories. These structures were all built without metal tools. The Maya were skilled weavers and potters. Along with lithic technology, Mayan were skilled mathematicians. Besides having a concept of zero as a place holder, they grasped the idea of

arithmetic, using 20 as

shows their numbering

their base. Below

The Maya are probably the best-known of the classical civilizations of Mesoamerica.

To know what happened to the Maya civilisation

From around 1517 - 1697 Spanish invaders (conquistadores) started to destroy the Maya cities and people. The Spanish were armed with artillery, steel swords and muskets (guns) the Maya had only spears, bows and arrows. The invaders brought diseases which were new to the Maya. They also tried hard to remove all traces of Maya culture over the following centuries.

Supporting materials for the unit of learning:
Maya Civilisation - KS2 History - BBC Bitesize

Enquiry 1

Place the key events of the Mayan civilisation on a timeline and place key events in British history at the same time. Use CE/BCE, BC and AD. Where are there overlaps in history? https://outu.be//tJK6AStK50

Mesoamerica Central America Research where the Maya period fits on a timeline

https://youtu.be/6P85RWxLY4I

Evolution o	f Maya culture
Olmec	1200-1000 B.C.
Early Preclassic Maya	1800-900 B.C.
Middle Preclassic Maya	900-300 B.C.
Late Preclassic Maya	300 B.C A.D. 250
Early Classic Maya	A.D. 250-600
Late Classic Maya	A.D. 600-900
Post Classic Maya	A.D. 900-1500
Colonial period	A.D. 1500-1800
Independent Mexico	A.D. 1821 to the present

Pre-Classic Period 1800BC -250AD

Classic Period

250AD - 950AD - Golden Age

Post-Classic Period 950AD – 1539AD

What happened to the Maya civilisation? Identify the possible reasons why.

Research and record their finding in their history books.

https://youtu.be/fXgoLbqv1do

To know and understand the hierarchy within the Mayan civilisation

Enquiry 2 Levels of society

Identify the hierarchy of the Maya society.

Ancient Maya Vocabulary list -(see PowerPoint) Ahau Archaeologist Bloodletting Cacao beans Cenote Chechen Itza Chronology City-states Civilisation Climate Codex Continent Deforestation Deities Demise Drought Dynasty Erosion Haab Hierarchy Hieroglyphics Huipil Jade Maize Merchant Peasant **Polytheists** Popol Vuh

Pyramid

Sacrifice

system which only uses

Levels of society:

The king, the link between his people and the gods was at the top of Maya society. Then came top generals, scribes and priests. Then came merchants and warriors. Then the farmers and labourers. Right at the bottom were the slaves.

Commoners and slaves wore plain loincloths, but the elite added feathers, animal skins or gems. Noblemen covered their lower half with a colourful garment and wore large, elaborate headdresses. Women wore skirts and tunics. Footwear was simple, usually being barefoot or sandals.

Create a hierarchy pyramid and label.

MAYA SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Halach Ulinic. This was a hereditary position. It was passed down from father to son only. His powers were wide. He was almost an absolute ruler

Batabs. There were all chosen from the noble class so this post was also hereditary. They were to see to it that the laws, taxes and policies were enforced.

> Priesthood Usually though the astronomers and astrologers and mathematicians were from the.

> > Ppoins The merchants and traders. They were often used as and suspected of being spies who carried information from one city to another.

Peasants: Majority of Mayas were farmers grew corn, beans and squash. Men cultivated white women made food. Paid taxes in food and helped build temples

Allahat Malahat

To know how modern life has been influenced by the Ancient Maya.

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

Enquiry 3

How has ancient Maya influence the modern world?

Identify and record how Ancient Maya has influenced our world as we know it today.

A Scheme of Work designed to make our school a vibrant learning community where all pupils are successful learners. Leaners who are valued and able to thrive. It is designed to engage pupils and motivate them to learn. It is challenging and inspirational, with meaningful outcomes and clearly defined end points, but allows flexibility, to ensure all pupils receive a broad, balanced curriculum and prepares pupils for the next stage of their education and for life in modern Britain and beyond.

Scribe Stela Terraced Trade Tzolkin 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. The Maya used a base 20 number system, so after number 19, multiples of 20 were written above the bottom number.

The discovery of chocolate https://youtu.be/3l3TFieqlvk

Video clips with a modern day twist Maya Bake off – what did the Maya eat and how did they cook their food?

https://youtu.be/Zay4WRJKc0k

Maya fashion make over – What did the Maya wear?

https://youtu.be/rNECuXcLT80

Ancient Maya Inventions and	Their impact on the modern world?
Discoveries	
Cacao beans	Chocolate
Number system – concept of zero	Mathematical developments
Calendar	365 day calendar
Hieroglyphics – books	Written word – recording their life
Astronomy	Observatories
Body art and piecing	Tattoos and piecing

https://youtu.be/m-ucz9NbQzw

To know that the Maya people had religious beliefs and rituals which influenced how they lived.

Religion was an important part of the ancient Maya culture. 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 they could help or hurt them. The Maya had complicated rituals involving prayer, singing, dancing and sacrifices. These sacrifices (mainly of slaves) which involved letting blood were held to honour the rise of a husband to ruler, a major victory in battle or the birth of the heir to the throne. Priests were very important in Maya society as it was believed that they could communicate directly with the gods. The priests were responsible for leading rituals of worship and sacrifice and telling the people what the gods wanted them to do. They would tell the people when to plant crops, who to marry and what sacrifices they should make. The people did all these things because they believed that the priest was speaking the wishes of the gods.

Enquiry 4

Who were the Maya Gods? How many Gods did they worship? Why were they important to the ancient Maya people? How did they worship them?

https://blog.xcaret.com/en/the-major-ancient-mayan-gods-you-should-know-about/

Choose a God/Goddess, research information and record their findings in their history books.

Share their research with their talk partners/class

https://youtu.be/iUZKg3KdtYo

The <u>Maya</u> were a polytheistic people who believed in a multitude of gods and goddesses. The deities of the <u>Maya pantheon</u> governed every aspect of nature and human life and were quite complex characters. Maya gods and goddesses were dualistic in nature and were changeable. To date, at least 250 Maya deities have been identified.









Links:

English/Book area – To read independently about the Maya civilisation and expand on their knowledge through books and internet research.

Resources: Hierarchy of Maya Society

http://www.historyshistories.com/maya-society.html#:~:text=The%20highest%20class%20was%20made,%2C%20other%20workers%2C%20and%20slaves.

Learning outcome:

Using all their knowledge about ancient Maya, discuss the enquiry question:

Can we thank the Ancient Maya civilisation for anything in our lives today?

In groups, ask the children to use post-it notes to write down their group's ideas and post them on a collaborative board.

Display the board and share everyone's ideas.

Key Assessment Criteria

To know that the Maya people had religious beliefs and why they worshiped Gods

To know the power structure of this ancient civilisation – hierarchy and governance

To know how this ancient civilisation has influenced the modern world – discoveries and inventions

