

Year 4 Term – Spring 2

Mayan Civilisation

This term we will be learning...

- To ask historical questions and make assertions.
- To establish the chronology of the Maya.
- To evaluate what Mayan architecture teaches us about being Maya.
- To establish the hierarchy of Maya society.
- To compare Mayan rituals with modern religions/laws.
- To chart the rise and fall of the Mayan empire.

We will be undertaking research and inquiry into the Mayan civilisation.



Educational Visits

4th March- Mayan workshop (Mexicolore) at school.
6 March we will be going to Crystal to meet an author

Key Information

Life in a Mayan settlement

Mayan settlements appear to not have been planned, but a general centre point was the temple. It is thought that the stepped temples were built both as a statement of grandeur and as a route to the heavens above. This is something the Mayans have in common with many other civilisations across the ancient world. Rumours of human sacrifice have seeped into popular culture, but appear to be overblown. Each settlement also had wide-open plazas which served as a meeting point, as well as a ball court where games were held. Cities were generally not organised in an identikit way, but had lots of common features. There does not appear to have been a central point of authority in the Mayan empire, rather society was organised through a number of rulers at local level. This is perhaps the reason the Mayans endured; without a central powerbase that could be decapitated, agreements had to be made with a number of rulers. In a way this is similar to the Indian, or even European, city-states.

English

We will be writing a character description and diary entry.

We will focus on:

- To justify inferences about a character's feelings, thoughts and motives
- To explain how words and phrases capture the reader's interests
- I can express time, place and cause using conjunctions, e.g., when, before, after, while, so,
- I can use modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility (e.g. perhaps, surely)

We will be reading **The BFG: Roald Dahl**.

Science

We will be learning to:

- gather, record, classify and present data in a variety of ways
- explore and use classification keys
- report on findings from enquiries including oral and written explanations.

Mathematics

We will be learning:

- Area is introduced by children using non-standard units and seeing how many of these will fit inside a shape.
- The need for standard units of measurement and will progress to measuring area by counting the number of centimetre squares that fit within a shape
- Introduced to the decimal point and how it can be used to write tenths as decimals.
- Explore the place value of numbers, using a place value grid, with one decimal place.
- Understand what happens when you divide a 1-digit number by 10,
- Learn to divide 2-digit numbers by 10.
- Learn to divide 1- and 2-digit numbers by 100,

Computing

We will be learning to:

- understand the Internet contains fact, fiction and opinion
- use the Internet to undertake independent and appropriate research
- be aware that not everyone they meet online is automatically trustworthy
- distinguish between fact and fiction

You might like to join in with our learning at home by:

Reading

- **Go to the library and read Roald Dahl books.**
- **Read 'Horrible Histories' books about Mayan Civilisation.**

Visiting

- **The British Museum to research about Mayan Civilisation.**
- **The thinkuknow website together to discuss e-safety at home.**

Doing

- **Memorising times tables and number bonds.**

Watching

'Horrible Histories' videos about Mayan Civilisation.