

**Year 4
Local Area**

Term – Autumn 1

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. We will have an amazing opportunity to meet people who are experts of Mayan culture! We will be chanting, counting in Mayan language and learning lots of interesting things about their daily life.

**This term we will
be learning about Maya people
and their influences.**



We will have a workshop organised by Mexicolore.

Mexicolore ('Mexico - the Lore of the Land') was set up in 1980 by Graciela Sánchez and her husband. Graciela is from Mexico so she know a lot about Mayan culture.

Key Information

The **Maya civilization** were people who lived in Central America. They lived there for a long time and some of the Maya people live there even today.

The Maya lived there 4,000 years ago (about 2000 BC). At that date complex societies were living in the Maya region. The staple crops of the Maya diet were cultivated. Their food included including maize, beans, squashes, and chili peppers. The first Maya cities developed around 750 BC.

The Maya people used a written language before Columbus came to the Americas in 1492 AD. They were good at art, building, and math. They knew about stars and planets, which helped them make calendars.

The Maya civilization was biggest between the years of 420 AD and 900 AD. The Maya civilization spread all the way from central Mexico to Honduras, Guatemala, and northern El Salvador. The Maya people traded with other people in the Americas. Their art and buildings have lots of different styles. This shows they traded a lot. They made changes to their buildings to make them even better. The Maya civilization started getting smaller after 900 AD.

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.,

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 R. Dahl books.
- Read Horrible Histories books about Mayan culture.

Watching

'Horrible Histories' videos about Mayan Civilisation.

Doing

- Memorising times tables and number bonds.

Visiting

The British Museum to research about Mayan Civilisation.