

What should I already know:

- South America is a continent.
- The climate of South America is different to that of the UK.
- Information about the Egyptian civilisation including Ancient Egyptian period was from 3100 BC to 332 BC.
- Ancient Egyptians had a writing system using hieroglyphics.

National Curriculum:

Pupils should be taught a non-European society that provides contrasts with British history – one study chosen from early Islamic civilization, including; Mayan civilization c. AD 900.

By the end of this unit, children will:

- Know when the Mayan Civilisation existed and compare to what is happening at this time in Britain.
- Know how Mayan Society was constructed.
- Compare what was happening in the Mayan civilisation with what was happening in Britain at the same time.
- Know the Mayan civilisation were advanced in the writing and maths systems.
- Understand the reasons why the Mayan civilisation came to an end.



**Year 4: History
Mayan Civilisation**



Vocabulary

Architecture	The art of planning, designing and constructing buildings.
Civilisation	A human society with its own social organisation and culture.
Culture	Activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation.
Deforestation	If an area is deforested, all the trees there are cut down.
Deities	A god or goddess.
Demise	Something or someone is their end of death.
Fertile	Rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants.
Hierarchy	A system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance, for example in society.
Mayan	Of, relating to, or characteristic of the Maya or any of their languages.
Polytheists	The worship of or belief in more than one god.
Society	People in general, thought of as a large organised group.

Key Facts at the end of this Unit:

Mayan people lived in South America. The most famous cities included Palenque and Chichen Itza which are found in Mexico.	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.
The Mayans lived in many city states and each city state had its own ruler.	Mayans were polytheists, believing in many nature gods and deities.
The demise of the Maya civilisation came about because of a mixture of deforestation, land erosion and drought.	The Mayans were an advanced civilisation who had a written form of communication (glyphs), developed one of the most advanced complex numerical systems of their time & invented their own calendar, among many other things.