

National Curriculum History	Artefacts	Cause and Effect	Vocabulary
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Know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world: the nature of ancient civilisations; the expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of past non-European societies; achievements and follies of mankind.

Gain and deploy a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms.

Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed.

Gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short- and long-term timescales.

Develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of world history.

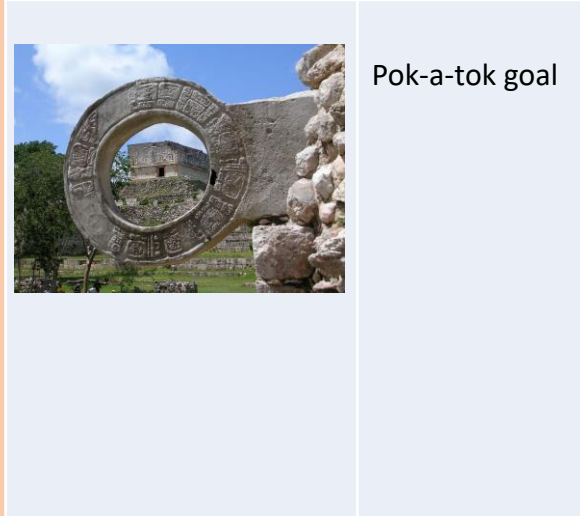
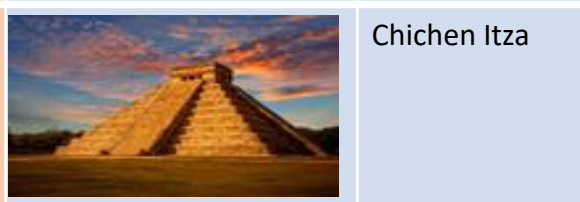
Note connections, contrasts and trends over time.

Develop the appropriate use of historical terms.

Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.

Build knowledge of the achievements of the earliest civilizations.

Gain an overview of where and when the first civilizations appeared.



Who were the Maya? Where did they live? What was home life like?

What is a common feature of religion in many ancient civilisations?

What did the Maya eat and drink?

What happened to the ancient Maya?

Civilisation
A human society with well developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.

Scribes
People trained to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write.

Codices
Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.

Maize
Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas.

Cacao Beans
Cacao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When they are ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans, which can then be dried, roasted and ground.

Chronology



1864

← ● ● ●	1600	1700	1800	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2022	2023	
The Ancient Maya 2,600 BC – 250 AD																			Now

Key Learning:

- Who were the Maya? Where did they live? What was home life like?**
 The Maya first developed their civilisation in around 2000 BC in Mesoamerica. The Maya built huge amounts of temples, palaces, causeways, schools and marketplaces. The royals and nobles lived in the centre and the ordinary people further out. Ordinary houses were built in an oval shape, from wooden poles with clay and mud (wattle and daub). They often buried family members underneath or near the house.
- What do you know about Maya gods? What is a common feature of religion in many ancient civilisations?**
 The ancient Maya would perform rituals to gain favour with the Gods. Public festivals related to special dates on the Maya calendar or occasions to plead for a healthy harvest, the health of a ruler, or to win a war. Before a ritual or festival, people would go without certain food or pierce their tongues, lips, cheeks or ears to offer a sacrifice of human blood. The festivals were colourful and noisy with processions, banners, drums and trumpets.
- What did the Maya eat and drink?**
 Ancient Maya diet was mostly maize, squash, beans (the 'Three Sisters,') and chili peppers. Of these, maize was most popular, and they ground it up and made tortillas to wrap meat and beans in. Chili peppers, tomatoes, avocado, pineapple, pumpkin and sweet potatoes were grown by tree-cropping. Mayans drank Xocolatl meaning 'bitter water', a much less creamy and indulgent version of the hot chocolate we drink today!
- What did the Maya do in their free time?**
 Although much of the Maya life was spent doing hard work, they did enjoy entertainment as well. A lot of their entertainment was centred around religious ceremonies. They played music, danced, and played games such as the Maya ball game Pok-a-tok.
- What happened to the ancient Maya?**
 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.

Key People



King Palal

Jasaw Chan K'awil



Mayan Gods