



Who were the Mayans?

KNOWLEDGE MAT

YEAR 3
HISTORY

KEY KNOWLEDGE



·The Maya built cities, pyramids and ornate sculptures in the rainforest. The Maya people mainly ate maize. They believed the first humans were made from maize dough by the gods.

·The Mayans believed chocolate was a gift from God. Cacao beans were highly valued and even used as a form of currency.

·The Maya developed an advanced number system for their time. The number system used 3 symbols in different combinations.



·The Maya believed in many gods and goddesses. They thought they had a good and a bad side, and that they could help or hurt them.



KEY VOCABULARY

Civilisation – a human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and arts are considered important.

Society – a group of individuals involved in persistent social interaction

City – a large town

State – a nation under one government

Agriculture – the practice of farming

Social class – a division of a society based on social and economic status

Architecture – the art and technique of designing and building

Trade – the action of buying and selling goods and services

Power – the capacity or ability to direct or influence the behaviour of others

Timeline

c 2000 BC – The Maya civilisation comes into being in Central America

c 300 BC – Cities, such as El Mirador, become large and powerful

AD 900 – Cities in the rainforest are abandoned due to a draught.

AD 2014 – The cities of Lagunita and Tamchen are rediscovered