

KEY VOCABULARY

Civilisation	The society, culture and way of life of a particular area
Temple	A building devoted to the worship of a god or gods
Empire	A group of states or countries ruled over by a single leader
Sacrifice	An act of killing an animal as an offering to the gods
Agriculture	Farming – growing crops and rearing animals
Astronomy	The study of space, planets, stars and the universe
Hieroglyphics	Writing which is made up of pictorial symbols

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER –The Mayans

What if the Mayans never existed?



FOOD

- The Mayan produced maize as their main crop
- The Maya ate Pozole – a type of stew
- We need to thank the Maya people for the discover of the cacao plant. Hot chocolate was a sacred drink for the Mayans

WORSHIP

- Mayan temples were stepped to create a route to the heavens
- The Mayan religion was polytheistic (they believed in more than one god) Each god was associated with a different area of life
- The Mayan practised human sacrifice as well as animal sacrifice

IMPORTANT DATES

2500 BC – 910 AD	Start and end of the ancient Mayan civilisation
250 AD	Start of classical period of Mayan civilisation
1605 AD	Spanish invaders (conquistadors) arrive in Mesoamerica
21st December 2012	The Mayans predicted the end of the world would happen on this date – fortunately they were wrong

CULTURE

- Music and art were important to the Maya
- The Maya observed the movement of the sun, moon and stars to create calendars
- The Maya created a logical and advanced number system
- Masks were used for many purposes, but mainly funerals to protect important people in the afterlife



DID YOU KNOW?

The Mayan idea of beauty included a flattened forehead, cross eyes, tattoos, teeth fillings and a large nose