

Caroline Haslett Primary School – History

Topic: The Maya	Year 5	Civilisation
<p>Knowledge</p> <p>Prior Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South America is a continent. • The climate of South America is different to that of the UK. • Human and physical geographical features of a region in South America. • Other civilisations include the Egyptians and the Greeks. • What erosion is and what impact it can have on land. • The chronology of British history. <p>New Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayan cities had similar layouts to each other. They would have a palace for the ruler, a plaza for the marketplaces and temples, in the form of pyramids. • Mayan cities were often found near trade routes and good farmland. • Mayans were polytheists, believing in many nature gods or deities. • 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. • Mayan merchants traded many goods including salt, cotton, honey and jade. • The Mayan calendar (Tzolkin) consisted of 260 days and 13 months. • The demise of the Mayan civilisation came about because of a mixture of deforestation, land erosion and drought. 		<p>Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chichen Itza – a village in Yucatán state in Mexico: site of important Mayan ruins. A UNESCO World Heritage Site • Economy – a wealth that a society or country gets from business or industry • Erosion – the gradual destruction and removal of rock or soil • Indigenous – people or things belong to the country in which they are found • Mayan – of, relating to, or characteristic of the Maya or any of their languages • Mesoamerica – Central America - the countries consist of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Belize; and the western sections of Honduras and Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica • Plaza – an open square in a city.

Timeline

