



Knowledge Organiser

Year Group:	6	Subject:	History	Term:	Spring 2/Summer 1
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Enquiry Question

The Mayans; Savage or civilised?

Concept



What should I already know?

- 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.

Substantive Knowledge (key facts)

- The Maya was an ancient civilisation in Mesoamerica (Central America) that existed from 2000BC to approximately 1697AD.
- Ancient Maya had a clear social hierarchy formed.
- The Maya lived in many city states and each city state had its own ruler.
- Religion was very important to the Ancient Maya, evidenced by their impressive temples. They worshipped many gods.

Historic skills I am practising

- I can use more accurate dates when describing and sequencing events.
- I can summarise and evaluate events on a timeline in relation to key concepts or theme.
- I can evaluate the impact of key historical people and events.
- I can evaluate the usefulness of primary and secondary sources in historical enquiry.

Sequence of learning

1)	Understand the importance of the range of Mayan achievements
2)	Explore how the Maya were able to grow so strong as a civilisation
3)	Explain what life was like at the height of the Mayan civilisation
4)	Explore why human sacrifice was practiced
5)	Explore why the Mayan empire ended



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Key vocabulary	
Tier 2	Tier 3
Settlement: a location where a group of people live	Agriculture: crop farming
Sacrifice: an act of slaughtering an animal or person as an offering to a god	Hierarchy: a ranking system based on status or authority
Maize: a crop, known as corn	Glyph: a hieroglyphic character or symbol
Temple: a building for religious worship	Code: a book written by the Maya using one long sheet of paper
City state: a city that's surrounding area forms an independent state	Astronomy: the study of space, planets and stars