



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** including the Egyptians and the Greeks.
- What **erosion** is and what impact it can have on land.

Vocabulary

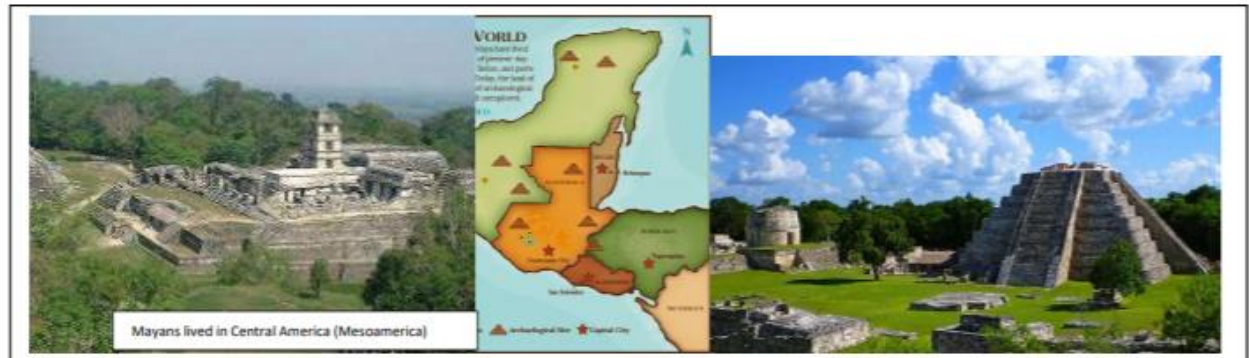
archaeologist	someone who studies the past by exploring old remains
architecture	the art of planning, designing and constructing buildings
Central America	countries consist of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Belize; and the western sections of Honduras and Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica
Chichen Itza	a village in Mexico: site of important Mayan ruins.
chronology	the order of events in time
circa	Latin meaning "around". c. 800 BC means around 800 BC.
civilisation	a human society with its own social organisation and culture .
culture	activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation
deforestation	if an area is deforested, all the trees there are cut down
deity	a god or goddess
demise	something or someone is their end or death
drought	a long period of time during which no rain falls.
economy	the wealth that a society or country gets from business and industry
fertile	rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants
hierarchy	a system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance, for example in society
indigenous	people or things belong to the country in which they are found
Mayan	of or relating to the Maya or any of their languages (adjective)
merchant	a person who buys or sells goods in large quantities
plaza	an open square in a city.
polytheists	the worship of or belief in more than one god
society	people in general, thought of as a large organized group
trade	the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services

Historical skills and enquiry

- Examine a variety of sources and use these to make inferences about the past - in particular about **Mayan economy, culture, religious beliefs and society**.
 - Describe how the **Mayan civilisation** has had an impact on modern **society**.
 - Examine the timeline of the **Mayan civilisation** and consider where there was rapid change and where there was very little change. Explain why this may be the case.
 - Compare what was happening in the **Mayan civilisation** with what was happening in Britain at the same time.
 - Place the **chronology** of key events of the **Mayan civilisation** on a time line with a **chronology** of the history of Britain. Where are the overlaps?
 - Compare the **Mayans** with the Greek and Egyptian **civilisations** using a Venn diagram.
 - Describe the ideas, beliefs and attitudes of all groups of people in the **Mayan civilisation**.
- Use appropriate vocabulary to communicate about the **Mayans**.

Mayan Society

- **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**.



c. AD 250: By this stage, the Mayan had established many cities, monuments and pyramids. They had devised systems for writing and mathematics.

c. AD 840: Poor quality fields, combined with land erosion, leads to drought.

Today there are still around 7 million indigenous Mayan people living in Central America.

c. AD 600: The Mayan population exceeded 5million. Excessive farming and **deforestation** due to overflow from the cities were commonplace and this led to land becoming less **fertile**.

c. AD 900: Many Mayan cities are deserted due to deforestation, drought and war.

What was happening in Britain at this time?