

# Mayan Civilisation: KS2 Knowledge Mat

## Subject Specific Vocabulary

<b>glyphs</b>	Symbols used in the Mayan writing system. Each symbol represents a word or sound.
<b>codices</b>	Books created by the Mayans. They were made of soft bark and folded like a fan.
<b>Chichen Itza</b>	The Mayans most well-known pyramid.
<b>cacao</b>	Seeds that the Maya used to make chocolate.
<b>ahau or ahaw</b>	The main king or lord of a Maya city-state.
<b>batab</b>	A lesser lord, usually ruling over a small town.
<b>Itzamna</b>	The main god of the Maya, Itzamna was the god of fire who created the Earth.
<b>huipil</b>	A traditional garment worn by Maya women.
<b>Kin</b>	Word representing a day in the Maya calendar.
<b>Kukulcan</b>	The serpent god of the Maya. One of the primary gods, especially to the Itza peoples of Chichen Itza.
<b>Uinal</b>	Word for a month in the Maya calendar. It was 20 days long.



## Our History Skills

Understand differences in social, religious, political and cultural history

Understand links between history and geography

Use a full range of dates and historical terms

Show changes on a time line

Explain their own point of view, justifying this with a broad range of evidence

Describe the main changes in a period of history, from several perceptions – e.g. political, cultural

## Sticky Knowledge about the Mayan civilization

- The Mayans were expert mathematicians and astronomers. They used this expertise to make calendars.
- Although the Mayans had metal-working skills, metal ores were scarce. Mayans used stone tools to carve the limestone that they used for their buildings.
- Mayan religion was extremely bloodthirsty, demanding human sacrifices and blood-letting rituals. The Mayans believed in an afterlife and that those who were sacrificed, as well as those killed in war and women who died in childbirth, went to 'the place of misty sky'.
- At the top of Mayan society was the king and royal family who were believed to be closely linked to the gods. An educated elite of scribes, priests and nobles formed the ruling class. They occupied the finest buildings in the city.
- Mayan society was formed of a number of city states each with their own ruler.