


Lunt's Heath Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

History Focus	Who are the Mayans and what have we learnt from them?	Year 5	Summer 1
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When? (Time line)	
1,100 BC	The first Mayan settlements begin to appear in Mesoamerica along the pacific coast.
800 BC	Instead of foraging, maize farming begins and trade between villages begins.
700 BC	Mayan writing begins to develop through the form of hieroglyphs.
100 BC – 450 AD	Maya constructs its first pyramids and developing cities, prompting the rapid rise of Tikal in the tropical lowlands
638 AD	Pakal the Great (King of Palenque) dies. His death mask, made of jade, is created.
800 AD – 1,502 AD	Mayan civilisation begins to decline and vanish. The Mayan ruins are found by a Spanish expedition lead by Hernández de Córdoba.
	

Key knowledge	
	
<p>The Mayans, or Maya, people made their homes in an area known as Mesoamerica (modern day Mexico and Central America). Mayan culture was well established by 1000 BCE and it lasted until 1697 CE. All Maya shared a common culture and religion, but each city governed itself and had its own noble ruler. Around 900 cities in the southern lowlands were abandoned but states in the uplands of the Yucatan Peninsula continued to flourish until the arrival of the Spanish in 1502.</p>	
Key Vocabulary	
Civilisation	Human society which is organised
Dynasty	A series of rulers or leaders who are all from the same family, or a period when a country is ruled by them
Astronomy	The Mayans were able to predict solar eclipses and used observatories and show-casting devices
Empire	A group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country.
Hieroglyphics	A system of writing, using pictures not words
Pok-a-tok	A game where large rubber balls were aimed at stone hoops
Stelae	Stone monuments glorifying Kings.