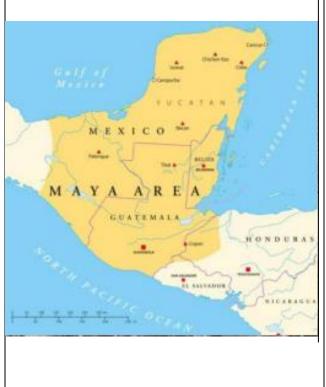
Lunt's Heath Primary School – Knowledge Organiser				
History Focus	Who are the Mayans and what	Year 5	Summer 1	
	have we learnt from them?			

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 - I,502 AD	Mayan civilisation begins to decline and vanish. The Mayan ruins are found by a Spanish expedition lead by Hernández de Córdoba.	





The Mayar, 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.

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.	