



# Year 6 Knowledge Mat: The Maya Civilisation

## Sticky Knowledge

The **Maya** made their home in an area known as **Mesoamerica** (modern day Mexico and Central America).



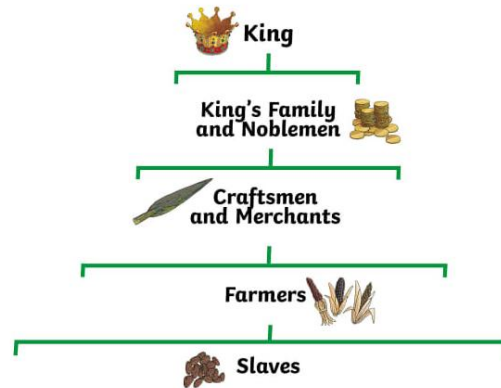
They were an ancient civilisation who began around 3000BC (although sources differ as it was so long ago!).

They were skilled builders who built amazing temples out of limestone.



The Maya were expert mathematicians and astronomers. They used this expertise to make calendars.

Maya society was formed of a number of cities each with their own ruler. There was a hierarchy as shown below:



Maya religion was extremely bloodthirsty, with human sacrifices and blood-letting rituals. They believed in different gods, who could help or hurt them, and also in an afterlife.

In the 1500s, the Spanish Conquistadors conquered and destroyed the remaining Maya cities.

Maya people exchanged goods including cacao, beans, feathers and jade. The physical geography of Maya affected the trade routes.

### Prior Learning

Ancient Egyptian writing system (hieroglyphs). Settlement and Trade – the importance of the River Nile. Settlement and trade – Neolithic Age. Ancient Egyptian Gods and afterlife. Ancient Civilisations. (Y3)

Ancient Greek Civilisations and democracy. Greek Gods. (Y4)

Anglo Saxon Gods (Y5)

## Subject Specific Vocabulary

<b>cocoa</b>	Seeds that the Maya used to make chocolate.
<b>Chichen Itza</b>	The Maya's most well-known city.
<b>conquistadors</b>	Spanish explorers who colonised much of Central America.
<b>glyphs</b>	Symbols used in the Maya writing system. Each symbol represents a word or sound.
<b>maize</b>	The main crop that was grown and eaten.
<b>Mexico Guatemala Belize El Salvador Honduras</b>	The present-day countries where the Maya lived.
<b>Mesoamerica</b>	Area of Central America made up of 5 modern day countries.
<b>sacrifice</b>	Offering a human or animal to their gods.
<b>Trade routes</b>	A long-distance route along which commercial goods are transported