

Unit Title: Why did the Mayans prosper and what is the legacy of this?

What should I know?

The Maya civilisation began long ago in a place called 'Mesoamerica'. This huge area is made up of Mexico and part of Central America.

*The Mayas built amazing cities like Tikal (which they called 'Yax Mutal') and Palenque. Even though they lived in different cities, ruled by different kings and queens, the Mayas **shared a lot of common beliefs and traditions.***

They were inspired by the creatures of the forest and shared many legends about animals, plants and nature spirits.

Key Knowledge

They lived around 4,000 years ago (about 2,000BC) but there are still Mayans living today.

Location

- In Central America in the Northern Hemisphere within the Tropic on Cancer.*
- The land they lived in now covers part of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, El Salvador and Nicaragua.*

Mayan beliefs

- They believed in many Gods with each representing a different aspect of life.*
- They made regular offerings to the Gods including animal and sometimes human sacrifices.*
- They believed in an afterlife in the sky.*

Legacy

- They developed the science of astronomy, calendar systems and hieroglyphic writing.*
- They created routes through the jungles and established trade routes.*
- They created elaborate structural architecture, such as temples.*



Key Vocabulary

*legacy
prosper
civilisation
ancient
classic period
settlement
community
glyphs
Codex
Haab
agriculture
sacrifice*

What should I know by the end of the unit?

- Why the Ancient Mayans prospered.*
- Why Ancient Maya was considered advanced compared to Europe at that time.*
- What the Mayan legacy is.*

Making Links - Remember when you....

- Learnt about the Ancient Greeks.*
- Learnt about Ancient Egypt.*
- Identified the continents and oceans of the world.*
- Learnt about rainforests of the world.*



Location



Mayan numbers and writing

El Castillo - Tinum



Legacy

0	1	2	3	4
	•	••	•••	••••
5	6	7	8	9
	•	••	•••	••••
10	11	12	13	14
	•	••	•••	••••
15	16	17	18	19
	•	••	•••	••••