

Our theme is the Ancient Maya

British values from the national curriculum:

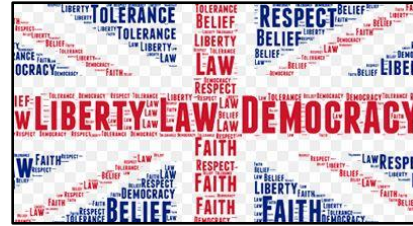
Democracy.

The rule of law.

Individual liberty.

Mutual respect.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.



The Maya were innovative inventors. They developed advanced agricultural techniques such as terracing and irrigation to support their growing population. Additionally, they invented the concept of zero and a sophisticated calendar system for tracking time and celestial events.



Mayan Facts and Key Knowledge

The Ancient Maya were an ancient civilisation from Mexico who first began constructing settlements around 2000 BCE. This is roughly equivalent to the beginning of the Bronze Age.



Religion was central to Maya life. They worshipped a range of gods and goddesses associated with natural elements, celestial bodies, and agricultural fertility. Priests played a crucial role in conducting rituals and ceremonies to appease the gods and ensure the well-being of society.



Mayan society was structured hierarchically, with kings and nobles at the top, followed by priests, warriors, artisans, and farmers. Each city-state had its own ruler who governed with the assistance of a council of nobles.



The decline of the Maya civilization is a topic of ongoing debate among scholars. Factors such as environmental degradation, overpopulation, warfare, and social unrest are believed to have contributed to the collapse of many Maya city-states around 900 CE.



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Key Vocabulary

Civilisation: a large and advanced group of humans who live together under the same rulers in large settlements.

City-state: a city that is ruled independently rather than by a national government.

Hierarchy: a hierarchical society is a society where people aren't equal. There are some people 'at the top' who have lots of power and many 'at the bottom' who do not.

Invention: a new tool, technique or idea which has never been thought of before and changes the way people live.



Irrigation: a way of making sure that crops are supplied with enough water so that they can grow and be harvested.

Pyramid: a large structure with sloping sides that meets at a point. They are usually used for religious purposes.

Ritual: a way of behaving usually linked to religion. A ritual may be a way of moving through a special building, singing or even sacrificing something.

Collapse: when a civilisation collapses, those in power usually lose control, people stop acting as a large group and old ways of life, buildings and entire cities may disappear or become ruined.

