

# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



Subject: **History**

Topic: The Mayans

Year: 3

## What should I already know?

- The Mayans were an Early Civilisation.
- Mayans lived a long time ago and their lives would have been different to ours.
- Mayans had different beliefs and systems.

## What am I going to learn?

- The Mayas civilisation came into being in 2000 BC in Central America.
- The Mayan religion was Polytheist, and they worshiped more than 165 Gods.
- The Mayas believed in many gods, each representing a different aspect of life.
- The Mayas made regular offerings to the gods, in the form of animals (and sometimes human) sacrifices.
- Priests were very important in the Maya society as it was believed that they could communicate directly with the gods.
- The Maya developed their first civilization in the Preclassic period.
- Classic Maya civilization grew to some 40 cities.
- Mayans everyday lives were busy, either with jobs, producing crops, games, dancing, writing, and mathematics.
- Mayans made a writing system that used hieroglyphs, which each picture had its own meaning.
- The Mayan civilisation declined around AD 1500s.
- Maya civilisation was destroyed by massive drought, scientists find.



## Vocabulary

**Afterlife:** Life after death.

**Archaeology:** The study of past human life. An archaeologist digs up and then studies objects such as pottery, tools, and buildings

**Artefacts:** An object made by a human being, which has a cultural or historical interest.

**Astronomy:** The branch of science that studies the universe beyond the earth. The word astronomy comes from the word *astronomos* which is an ancient Greek word meaning 'one who arranges the stars.'

**Chronologically:** According to the order in which things happen.

**Civilisation:** The society, culture, and way of life of a particular area.

**Codex:** An ancient manuscript text in book form.

**Maya:** A member of an ancient Indian civilization of Mexico and Central America that was discovered and destroyed by Europeans in the 1500s.

**Sacrifices:** The gift of something to a God as an act of worship.

**Society:** The members of a community or group considered together.

**Warfare:** The act of fighting a conflict such as a war.

**Worship:** Love and devotion shown to a being or an object considered sacred.



## Useful Websites

<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/search/the-mayans/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw>

[https://www.ducksters.com/history/maya/daily\\_life.php](https://www.ducksters.com/history/maya/daily_life.php)