



Year 6

Hola Mexico Knowledge Organiser

Retrieval Facts

What I need to know to help me with this topic

How to use a map and an atlas - Geography Year 3

Continents, Oceans and Seas - Geography Year 1 and 2

Human and physical features – Geography Year 5

Seasonal weather and Climate - Geography Year 1

Gr8! Words

Key Vocabulary you will learn and use

Word	Definition
civilisation	A well-organised and developed society
climate	The weather in a particular place over a period of time
culture	The lifestyle of a group of people or a society
indigenous	People, plants or animals originated in a place
landscape	A large area of land
patron saint	A holy person who is specially chosen as a protector over a person, place, object of activity.
region	A geographical area with its own unique
altitude	The distance above sea level

Key Dates

3114 BC - The Maya calendar begins

300 BC – The Maya develop a writing system known as glyphs

100 BC – The largest known ancient city in the Americas, Teotihuacan, is founded in the Valley of Mexico

1500 – Spanish explorers take land and wealth from the remaining Maya

Key Locations



Scan here to find out more information

Mexico



SCAN ME

Chichen Itza



SCAN ME

Civilisation



SCAN ME

Wider Reading

Books, websites and other sources you may find helpful

- The History Detective Investigates: Mayan Civilization by Claire Hibbert
- The Maya and Chichén Itzá (Time Travel Guides) by Ben Hubbard
- The Ancient Maya by Scholastic
- The Mayan Civilisation (School Learning Zone)
- Mayans (DK Find Out)
- Mayan People (Kiddle)

Key Questions you will be able to answer

- Who are the Maya?
- What is the Day of the Dead?
- When was the Chichen Itza built?
- What is the climate like in the Chihuahuan desert?
- How did the Maya develop the writing system?
- Who are the Maya gods and what are their beliefs?
- How did the Maya express themselves through music and art?

Lesson Sequence

The Geographical landscape of Mexico –Geography

Ancient Maya civilisation- History

Ancient Maya society- History

Ancient Maya cities- Geography

The Chihuahuan Desert- Geography

Rural and city Mexico-Geography

Everyday life in Ancient Mexico-History

Maya wraps- DT

Maya stelae- Art

Maya Gods- History

Maya beliefs about the world- History

Day of the Dead skulls- Art



Sticky Knowledge



1. The Chihuahuan desert is the largest desert in North America-stretching all the way from the south-western United States deep into the Central Mexican Highlands. Because of the region's high altitude (3,000 to 5,000 feet) winters and nights are cool while summer days can reach temperatures over 100 degrees. Very little rain falls in the area, but underground springs, small streams and the Rio Grande River provide precious water.

2. **Mexico** is a land of extremes, with high mountains and deep canyons in the centre of the country, sweeping deserts in the north and dense rainforests in the south and east. Mountains cover much of Mexico. Between the **Sierra Madre Oriental** mountain range in the east and the **Sierra Madre Occidental** in the west lie small mountain ranges on the **Central Plateau**. These regions are rich with valuable metals like silver and copper.

3. The Maya are perhaps most famous for their work in stone. They built many monumental structures including tall pyramids and palaces. They also made a lot of sculptures out of stone. One popular type of Maya sculpture was the stela. A stela was a large tall stone slab covered with carvings and writing, which can be known as hieroglyphics. The art often told a story about a major event.

4. Maya society was formed of a number of **city states each with their own ruler**. Each city was surrounded by rural settlements. At the top of Maya society were the **King** and **Royal family** who were believed to be closely linked to the gods. An educated elite of scribes, priests and nobles formed the **ruling class**. They occupied the finest buildings in the city.

5. The Maya were sophisticated **mathematicians** who made use of the number zero. They used base 20 in their calculations. They were keen **astronomers** who were able to predict solar eclipses. Their complex **calendar** system was one of the most accurate of the ancient world. They were experts at reading the stars and even built their cities as a map of the sky! They were also inspired by the creatures of the forest and shared many legends about animals, plants and nature spirits.

6. The Maya believed in hundreds of different nature gods who ruled people's lives and decisions, such as the gods of maize, the Sun and fire. The lives of the Maya revolved around religion; they had many special ceremonies and rituals to honour the gods and ask for blessings. Cities had special temples where people went to worship and offer the gods gifts.

Homework Menu

Date to be returned:06.12.21

Research the Day of the Dead and write down 10 facts about what Mexicans do.

Create your own Mexican dish and write a set of instructions for someone to follow

Create a model of the Chichen Itza using any recyclable materials around the house.