

The Maya

Welcome Shonibare and Banksy!

This half term we will retrace our steps and step back in time to explore, in more detail, **'The Ancient Maya'**. This links to our geography topic where we have been exploring 'The Americas'.

The Maya were an ancient, intelligent and deeply religious people who invented many important and interesting things which continue to impact on us today.



Join us on a journey of discovery as we discover their ancient civilisation!

For this topic, we are encouraging you to lead your own learning. You may already have some ideas about what most interests you about the Maya.

There are two ways to approach this topic.

Option 1: Journey back in time with us, week by week to explore a different aspect of the Maya culture, gods and religion, their writing and the number system.

Or

Option 2: Take an opportunity to explore this topic independently, choosing your own themes. You are of course welcome to do a bit of both!

OUTCOME: Whichever approach you choose, we would like you to **create an e-book** of what you have discovered. If you do not want to create an e-book, please create a booklet of your own to share with us.



Book Creator: Sign up (with permission) to <https://bookcreator.com/>. This is a child friendly online book creator and is designed for teachers and pupils to share publications. Once you have signed up, and made your e-books, you can download and share them.

Lesson 1

Meeting the Maya

This lesson is a recap for all you atlas lovers! This week, we will be re-introducing the Maya civilisation and reminding ourselves of where in the world they lived. Study the PowerPoint presentation **Yr6 Topic su2 wk1 Meet the Maya**.

Activity 1: Question time!

Think about and jot down what you can remember and what you already know about the Maya. Can you answer any of these 5 questions? Also jot down what else you might like to find out about.

1. Who were the ancient Maya people?
2. When did they live?
3. Where did they live?
4. How did they live?
5. What do we know about them?

Activity 2: Locate Central America and identify the countries.

In geography, we have been focussing on the continents of North and South America. The Maya originate from Central America. Central America is a region in the southern tip of North America and is sometimes defined as a sub-region of the Americas.

Locate **Central America** on your map or atlas. **What countries can you find in Central America**? Find and label these on your **Maya Map Activity Sheet**.

Activity 3: Use a map or atlas to **find and label the countries listed on your activity sheet**. Then **find the location of the ancient Maya cities** and mark them on your map.



Activity 4: create a 'Welcome to the Maya Area' tourist information page.

The page must include details which answer the following questions:

1. Who were the ancient Maya people?
2. Where in the world did they live?
3. What is special about the ancient Maya people?

You can use maps and pictures on your page too.

TOPIC - HISTORY

Lesson 2 Religion and Gods

Now it is time to make the **second chapter of your e-book**. <https://bookcreator.com/>
See the information on the introduction page above if you haven't started your e-book yet.

This chapter will explore the **belief system** of the ancient Maya and the roles of priests and **rituals** in their religion.

You can learn more about this topic here: **Yr 6 Topic su2 wk 2 Gods and Religion**

Remember: this is your eBook. You can include whatever information you think is most interesting about this topic in your **Religion and Gods chapter**. Research any aspect of the Maya belief system, the rituals, priests or whatever catches your interest.

You can also check out this video from BBC Bitesize
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw/articles/z2gkk2p>

Here is a link to more information about the gods the Maya worshipped.
<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/mayans/mayan-gods/>

Top tip: Please remember to stay safe online and use **kiddle** or **your keywords + ks2** for example: Maya gods + ks2.



Lesson 3 Number system

Now it is time to start the **third chapter of your e-book**.
This chapter will explore how the Maya created a sophisticated number system using the things they had around them. You will learn to identify and read the numbers 0-19 in ancient Mayan.

You can learn more about this topic here: **Yr 6 Topic su2 wk 2 Number system**.

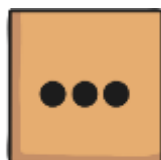
Activity: You should complete the **Maya number system activity sheet** in **resources**.

In your chapter, you should explain about the base 20 system and what they used. You should give different examples and get your reader to try some out. Make your eBook interactive! (*Don't go into larger numbers – we will explore this next session.*)

Have a look at these websites if you want to learn more.

<https://www.storyofmathematics.com/mayan.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvDujDrI24w>



TOPIC - HISTORY

Lesson 4

Number system – larger numbers

Lesson 5

Lesson 6

Lesson 7

Historians – Hunt for Hidden secrets!