

# Altofts Junior School—History- Year 4—Autumn Term—Maya

## Was the Maya Civilisation ahead of their time?

In this topic pupils learn about the significant advances in the Maya's social system including their developments in writing and calendar systems.



## Key knowledge

- Know the Maya civilisation came into being around 2000 BC in Mesoamerica and ended around 1600 AD when they were conquered by Spanish invaders
- Know that Mayans had a social structure with the Halach Uinic as the absolute ruler, position passed from father to son
- Know that the Maya people built pyramids to reflect their social structure
- Describe connections and contrasts between the Maya Civilisation and Ancient Egyptian Civilisation
- Know the Maya had a good understanding of numbers and they developed a complex number and counting system which was advanced for their time, including developing the concept of zero
- Know the Maya people created detailed and accurate calendars
- Explain the advancements in the Mayan Civilisation
- Know the Maya people also wrote books made of the bark from fig trees
- Describe connections and contrasts between the Maya Civilisation and Ancient Egyptian Civilisation
- Explain the advancements in the Mayan Civilisation
- Know that the Maya believed in and worshipped a number of different gods including Kinich Ahau (sun) and Ah Puch (death)
- Describe connections and contrasts between the Maya Civilisation and Ancient Egyptian Civilisation

## Significant Place Tikal—Mayan city which they called Yax Mutal



## Disciplinary Vocabulary

**Civilisation** - society, culture and a way of life

**Era** - a distinct period of history

**Legacy** - a long-lasting impact

## Substantive Vocabulary

**Mesoamerica** - a huge area made up of Mexico and part of central America

**Halach Uinic** - supreme ruler

**Kinich Ahau** - God of the sun

**Ah Puch** - God of death

