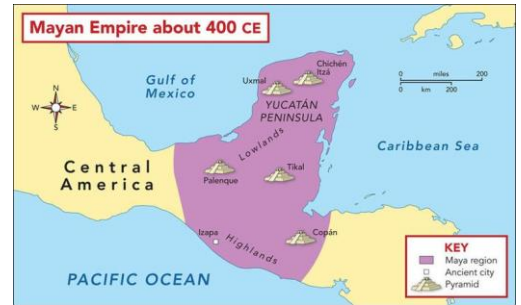




Vocabulary

Maya	The collective noun for the Mayan people.
Mesoamerica	The region in which the Maya lived, spanning over Mexico and parts of Southern America.
Deity	A synonym for god.
Chichen Itza	One of the best-preserved examples of a Mayan city.
Legend	A story told that has a religious origin usually comprising of a mortal vs immortal being.
Hieroglyph	A symbol that has a worded meaning, read like our graphemes.
Maize Corn	A major resource of food for Mayan people. Part of their religious culture too.
Sacrifice	A slaughtering of an animal or human as an offering to please the gods.
Pyramid	A 3D man-made structure that is built through large cuboids of rock piled upon one another to form a triangular shape.









1. Mayan Civilisation 2000BC – 750ad	2. Key discoveries
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The Maya were a civilisation who lived in Mesoamerica (now Central America) between approximately 2000 BCE and 900CE. They are known for being the first Mesoamericans to develop writing. They also had a sophisticated culture in which they lived in city states. They built spectacular monuments and stepped pyramids – some (e.g. Chichen Itza) have become world tourist destinations in the modern day. They were also well-known for their advanced maths and calendars. Around 900CE, Maya cities became abandoned. No one knows for sure why this happened.

Chocolate We need to thank the Mayans for the discovery of this well-loved treat. It was a sacred drink for the Mayans.
Number System The Mayans used dots for single numbers and lines for the number 5, similar to the way we might use tallies. Their base system was 20 whereas ours is based on 10.
Ball Games The Mayans competed to get a ball through a stone ring without using their hands or feet. On occasion, the losing team could be put to death.
Calendars They observed the movement of the sun, moon and stars to create calendars. They were more advanced than their European ‘friends’.
21st December 2012 The Mayans predicted the end of the world would happen on this date. Fortunately, they were wrong!

3. Did you know...

- The Mayans believed in three realms – heaven, Earth and the underworld.
- The Mayan civilisation did not abruptly collapse, it was a slow decline.
- At the site of Copan, on the stairway, there are 2,200 individual glyphs representing the major rulers of the Copan dynasty. It is the longest made Mayan hieroglyphic text.
- The Mayans created spectacular temples and pyramids without the use of metal tools, wheels and domesticated beasts. Ceremonial masks were used for many purposes but mainly funerals, to protect noblemen in the afterlife.
- The Ancient Maya lived in an area called Mesoamerica.

<p>1,100 BC The first 'Mayan' settlements begin to appear in Mesoamerica along the pacific coast.</p> 	<p>800BC Instead of foraging, maize farming begins and trade between villages begins.</p> 	<p>700BC Mayan writing begins to develop through the form of hieroglyphs.</p> 	<p>100BC – 450AD Maya constructs its first pyramids and developing cities, prompting the rapid rise of Tikal in the tropical lowlands.</p> 	<p>638AD Pakal the Great (King of Palenque) dies. His death mask made of jade is created.</p> 	<p>800AD – 1,502AD Mayan civilization begins to decline and vanish. The Mayan ruins are found by a Spanish expedition lead by Francisco Hernández de Córdoba.</p> 
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