



# St Paul's Primary School, Newcastle. Glorifying Almighty God, and serving our community.

Investigate and interpret the past		Build an overview of world history	Understand chronology	Communicate historically
Class: 6			Title: The Mayans	
<b>Topic summary:</b> The Maya are native Americans of Central America, who built a great civilisation in the tropical rainforest that lasted for over 2000 years. The earliest Maya settlements were built about 1800 BCE. The golden age of the Maya was between 250 and 900 CE. At its peak, the civilisation was made up of 40 great cities and almost 2 million people. The Maya people became expert mathematicians and were skilful astronomers and architects. Suddenly, in around 900, many of these significant Maya settlements were <u>abandoned</u> . No one is quite sure why, but it is possible that changes in the climate or <u>overpopulation</u> made the cities <u>uninhabitable</u> . The Maya still live in the same areas of Central America today, continuing many of their historical <u>traditions</u> .				
History Objectives			Unit of work end points	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe the social, ethnic, cultural or religious diversity of past society.</li><li>• Use appropriate historical vocabulary to communicate, including: dates, time period, era, chronology, continuity, change, century, decade, legacy.</li><li>• Describe the main changes in a period of history (using terms such as, social, religious, political, technological and cultural).</li><li>• Understand the concepts of continuity and change over time, representing them, along with evidence, on a time line.</li><li>• Select suitable sources of evidence, giving reasons for choices.</li><li>• Understand that no single source of evidence gives the full answer to questions about the past.</li></ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain when the ‘golden age’ of the Maya was, and why it was a significant period for the Mayans.</li><li>• Place key dates on a timeline to show what happened to the Maya civilisation over time</li><li>• Using historical language, describe a Maya settlement and give an overview of the characteristic features of a Maya city</li><li>• List some of the farming methods the Maya used, and how this impacted their way of living</li><li>• Investigate the Maya writing system; when they developed writing, why scribes were well-respected people and codices that have survived today.</li><li>• Investigate why many Mayan artefacts have been lost.</li></ul>	
<b>Deeper learning:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To use multiple sources to suggest what caused the sudden collapse of Maya’s main cities</li><li>• Do you agree? Spanish accounts of the Maya, written in the 16<sup>th</sup> century are reliable sources of evidence</li></ul>				
Key vocabulary			Important Dates	Questions?
Abandoned	Left for a long time		<b>c.250BCE:</b> First systems of Maya writing developed <b>600 CE:</b> Caracol became the most important Maya city <b>c. 750 CE:</b> Maya civilisation a major power in the region. <b>c. 900 CE:</b> Cities like Tikal, Copán and Palenque were abandoned <b>c. 1520 CE:</b> Spanish conquistadors made contact with Maya settlements	Why were scribes significant, well-respected people? What are the names of the ancient Maya codices that have survived to this day? What makes the Maya a significant ancient civilisation?
Overpopulation	Too many people			
Uninhabitable	Cannot be lived in			
Irrigation	Supplying land with water			
Terracing	Steps built into sloping land			
Codices	Plural of codex (an ancient type of book written by hand)			
Innovations	New ways of doing something			
Expansion	Process of becoming bigger			
Architects	A person that designs buildings			
Agriculture	The practice of farming			
Conquistadors	A conqueror			