



Sharnbrook Primary Knowledge Planner – History Y4 The Maya

Key Question: Was building pyramids the only similarities between the Maya and Egyptians? **Disciplinary Focus:** Comparison – similarities and differences

What I should already know	Key Facts	Vocabulary	
Facts about Ancient Egypt and the Vikings.	<p>Maya civilization was in central America called Mesoamerica.</p> <p>The Maya civilization lasted from 2000bc to 1600</p> <p>The classic period was from 250 – 900AD</p> <p>The classic period was at the same time as the Romans, Anglo Saxons and Vikings in Britain.</p> <p>Maya society had lots of cities with their own king and queen.</p> <p>The pyramids were built so the Maya could worship their gods. The Maya worshiped lots of different gods. Pleasing the gods was a very important part of Maya life.</p> <p>The Maya calendar was very advanced for its time.</p> <p>The calendar was needed to fulfill their religious culture and beliefs. The Maya combined different symbols to create codices.</p> <p>Today Maya writing is mainly found in carvings.</p> <p>Maya made books out of bark.</p>	astronomy	The Mayans were able to predict solar eclipses and used observatories and shadow-casting devices.
 			calendar
		hieroglyphs	They used about 800 symbols to create writing, often on folded pages forming a book (codex).
		Kings/Queens	The King/Queen was thought to be given the right to rule by the gods. Each city had a palace for them.
		maize	The staple food of the Mayans which was so important that they even had a maize god.
		numbers	Using a base 20 system (we use base 10), they used dots and bars to create numbers and had a symbol for zero.
		pok-a-tok	A game where large rubber balls were aimed at stone hoops. Losers were sometimes sacrificed to the gods!
		pyramids	Built with a temple at the top to give sacrifices to the gods, others were built for the gods themselves.
		sacrifice	Humans and animals were used as a blood offering to gods, mostly war prisoners by decapitation or heart removal.
		stelae	Stone monuments glorifying Kings and record his deeds, although early examples were of mythical scenes.
		Codices	Maya books made from tree bark

Thinking Like a Historian

<p>Trade: Merchants drove their human caravans along roads, down rivers and around coasts to trade with fellow Mayans and other Mesoamericans. The geography was so varied that they relied on trade to get the things they needed off each other, from maize, fish and salt to stingray spines (used for bloodletting) and valuable stones such as jade and obsidian.</p> <p>What happened to the Mayans? Around 900, many cities in the southern lowlands were abandoned but states in the uplands of the Yucatan peninsula continued to flourish until the arrival of the Spanish in 1502. One belief is that the Toltecs and the Aztecs took over with their own empires but later, when the Spanish arrived, they brought disease and forced them to give up their gods and become Christians.</p>	<p>To recall facts about the Maya and Egyptian civilisations.</p> <p>To recognise and explain how some aspects of Maya and Egyptian life style and religious beliefs are different.</p> <p>To start to recognise the extent and importance of these similarities.</p>
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Timeline								
1100 B.C.	800 B.C.	400 B.C.	300 B.C.	100 B.C.	600	800	900	1502
The first hunter-gatherers settle on the pacific coast	Village farming and trade become established	First solar calendars invented	Cities become centres for trade and Kings begin to rule	First pyramids are built	Cities start expanding quickly	Building of stepped pyramid of Chichen-Itza	Decline of Mayan cities	First contact with Europeans is made

