

Unit of Work	Marvellous Mayans
Text Driver	https://www.booksfortopics.com/maya
NC Objectives	KS2 - a non-European society that provides contrasts with British history - one study chosen from: early Islamic civilization, including a study of Baghdad c. AD 900; Mayan civilization c. AD 900; Benin (West Africa) c. AD 900-1300
Unit of Work Summary	During the unit of work the children will taking a trip deep into the rainforests of Central America as they explore Mayan ruins and from there embark on a journey that allow the children to uncover the life, society and civilisation of both ancient and modern Mayan people.
Prior Learning	Children will come to this unit having learnt about other Ancient Civilisations including Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece and have studied religion in these civilisations. Use sources of evidence.
Sticky Knowledge	- To know where and when the remains of the Mayan ruins were discovered. - To know about the Spanish conquistadors and their expeditions in Mesoamerica.

	• To know out about how the Mayan civilisation developed over time. • To know how artefacts can help us find out about the Mayan civilisation. • To know about the city states of the Maya and how society was organised. • To know about Mayan religion and beliefs. • To know about how our society is run and who makes our decisions before comparing this with how Mayan society was structured. They will find out about different groups of Mayan people from kings and nobles to slaves and farmers, as well as how Mayans lived in various independent city states. • To know what the Maya believed and how this affected their daily lives. They will explore some of the Mayan gods and what they demanded from the Mayan people, including bloodletting and human sacrifice, as well as learning about the role of priests and beliefs about the afterlife. • To know about some of the major achievements of the Maya, specifically a complete writing and number system, and the development of calendars. • To consider the importance of writing from the Maya in helping historians find out about the past. • To know about the decline of the Mayan civilisation. • To know that the Mayan civilisation declined c.900 AD. • To know that the Maya didn't disappear completely and that Mayan people still live in the area today.
New Vocabulary	civilisation An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time. drought A long period with very little rain. ritual A ceremony, often religious, with set actions performed in a set order. jaguar A big cat, heavier than a leopard, with yellowish fur and black spots.

	scribes People paid to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write. codices Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex. maize Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas. cacao beans Cacao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When they are ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans, which can then be dried, roasted and ground.
Post Learning	KS3 historical knowledge and skills - no specific links to Mayans.