

Y6 Ecclesall

Who were the Ancient Maya and why were they successful?



End Points:

The Maya lived in present-day Mexico and Central America

The Mayans were a civilisation with a well-developed culture and way of life :

- They invented objects and systems which advanced their way of life.
- They invented farming techniques to make different regions fertile

We know about the Maya from their writings in glyphs, advanced number system and their buildings that are still there today.

How you can help at home:

- Talk about other ancient civilisations you know about
- Look at any maps of South America
- Learn the vocabulary on the right.

Prior Learning

What is a civilisation? (Hierarchy of power and societal roles in Ancient Egypt).

Viking trade and why it was necessary when resources are limited by landscape.

Future Learning

KS3 to know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world: the nature of ancient civilisations; characteristic features of past non-European societies.



Key Vocabulary

Word	Definition
Architecture	The art of planning, designing and constructing buildings
Civilisation	A human society with a well-developed culture and way of life, living in a particular period of time
Glyphs	Mayan writing system which used over 1,000 different signs, each representing different words and sounds.
Hierarchy	A system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance, for example in society
Indigenous	People or things that belong to the country in which they are found
Mesoamerica	A historical region in southern North America. Derived from the Greek meaning 'middle America'
Noble	Belonging to a higher rank in social society from birth
Society	A large group of people that share the same laws, rights, and resources
Trade	The activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services
Terrace farming	Walls are built to make small flat fields one on top of the other to increase farmland in mountain areas.