

Who were the Mayans?

What we need to know:

- That the Maya people lived in different city-states and worshipped different Gods with different rituals.
- That the Maya people developed their own early number system with similarities to our Arabic system.
- That cacao & maize were extremely important in Maya life and culture (not just as food items).
- They played the earliest team sport (Pok-a-tok) which represented the struggle of life over death.
- Primary sources (like artefacts) help us to understand more about life in the past.

Maya Civilisation Chronology:

Preclassic Period 2000BC: AD 250

- 700BC – Maya writing developed
- 600 BC – Maya farming developed
- 600 BC – The major city of Tikal was formed
- 300 BC – The first Maya calendars were carved into stone



Classic Period: AD 250- AD 900

- 400 AD - Teotihuacan was the dominant city
- 560 AD - Tikal was defeated
- 600 AD - Teotihuacan declined & was no longer a cultural centre
- 900 AD - The southern lowland cities collapsed & Teotihuacan was abandoned



Postclassic Period: AD 900 – AD 1521

- 925 AD - Chichen Itza became the most powerful city-state
- 1250 AD - Chichen Itza was abandoned
- 1517 AD – The Spanish arrived - conquistador Hernández de Córdoba led invasion.



Colonial period: AD 1500 onwards

- 1541 AD – Many of the city-states were conquered by the Spanish
- 1695 AD – The ruins of Tikal were discovered



Did you know?

- The reason for the collapse of the Maya Classic period is still a mystery to archaeologists!
- The Maya built some of the biggest pyramids in the world!
- Half of all of the people living in Guatemala today are Maya people.

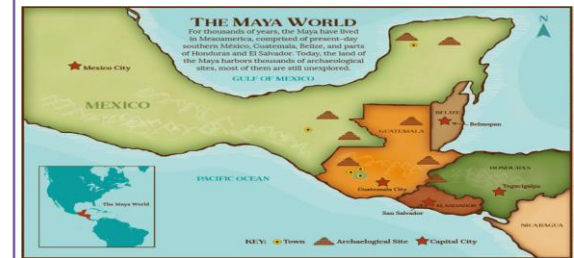
Key Vocabulary:

Archaeology	Study of history through artefacts, sites and other remains.
Cacao	Seeds from which cocoa - eventually chocolate- are formed.
City-State	City (and surrounding territory) forms an independent state.
Codex/codices	Books written in Maya glyphs on bark paper.
Glyph	A character or symbol used in writing.
Maize	Sweetcorn.
Quetzal	A tropical bird.
Pok-a-tok	A ball game with ritual aspects to it.
Polytheism	The belief in or worship of more than one god.
Priest	Performed religious ceremonies, studied astronomy, contacted the gods.
Drought	A long period with very little rain.

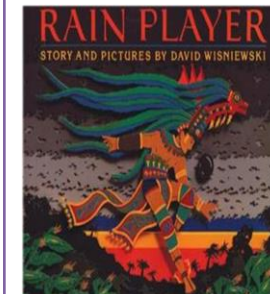
The ruins of the city-state of Tikal:



Map of the Maya Empire in Mesoamerica (shown in present day Central America):



Our class book: Rain Player by David Wisniewski



This beautiful picture book encourages our inference skills when discussing the events (and illustrations) of this narrative. The tale tells of a normal Maya boy who is set a great challenge by the Rain God.

Who were the Mayans?

What are we learning:

- To compare and group materials together based on their (hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity) properties.
- To understand that some materials will dissolve in liquid to form a solution.
- To use filtering, sieving and evaporating to separate some solids, liquids and gases.
- How to conduct a *fair test* (change one factor at a time and keep the rest consistent).
- Understand –and explain- how and why different materials are used (metals, woods, plastics).
- To demonstrate and prove that dissolving, mixing and changes of state are *reversible* changes.
- Understand that there are irreversible changes, meaning that the newly formed materials cannot be changed back (for example with burning).

Reversible changes:

Melting, freezing, evaporating, condensing and dissolving are examples of reversible changes. This is because they can be changed back (for example water can become ice again if it is frozen).



Investigations:

- We will investigate why certain materials are used to create everyday objects, finding out whether their solubility, conductivity and transparency matter.
- We will find out the most suitable conductors of electricity through the use of simple circuits.
- We will explore the reversibility of changes through mixing different solids and liquids and observing –and scientifically recording- the results.

Key Vocabulary

Conductor	A material or device that conducts or transmits heat or electricity.
Dissolve	When a solid combines with a liquid to create a solution.
Evaporating	When a liquid turns to gas through heating.
Filter	To pass a gas or liquid through filter paper to remove unwanted solids.
Mixture	When two or more substances are combined.
Soluble	A substance able to be dissolved in water.
Insoluble	A substance that cannot be dissolved in water.
Reversible	A change that can be undone.
Solution	Two or more substances are combined and cannot be separated.

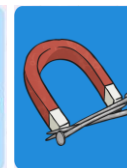
Properties of Materials:

Materials can be described in many different ways, this includes: man-made and natural. Natural materials include stone, wood and cotton. Synthetic or man-made materials are made from natural materials, but are altered with the help of heat or chemicals.




Separating Mixtures:

- Mixtures can be separated in these ways: evaporation, using magnets, filtration and sieving.



Completing Experiments:

How to Plan a Fair Test:

- Cows** change one thing 
- Moo** measure
- Softly** keep everything else the same