

The Maya Civilisation c. AD 900

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.

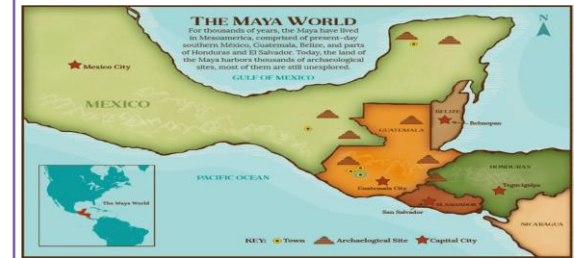
Key Vocabulary:

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.
Primary Sources	Something that originates from the past & is used to inform our historical judgements.

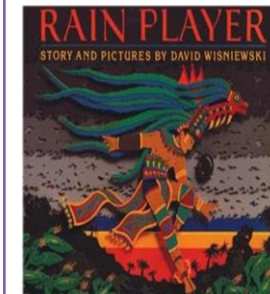
The ruins of the city-state of Tikal:



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.

Properties and Changes of Materials

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.

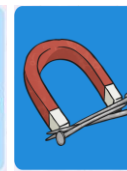
Properties of Materials:

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

