

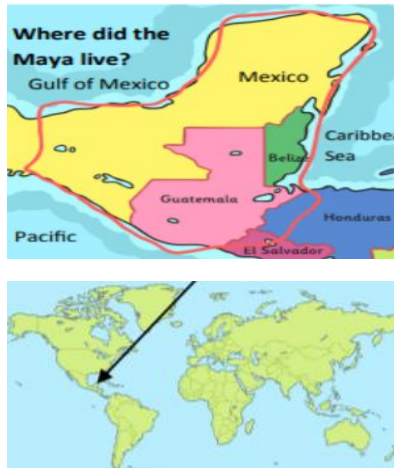
# FPS HISTORY

## Knowledge Organiser

### Year 5/6 Who were the Maya and what did we learn from them?

**Key Question:** Who were the Maya and where did they live?

**Key Learning:** The Maya were an ancient civilisation known for their advanced culture. They lived in an area that is now part of Central and South America.



**Key Question:** How important was religion to the Maya?

The Maya believed in many Gods. They would regularly sacrifice people and animals to keep them happy. Good harvests and winning battles would be a sign of the Gods being pleased. Poor harvests, bad weather and illness would be a sign the Gods were displeased.



#### Key Vocabulary

VOCABULARY	
<b>Maya</b>	The collective noun for the Mayan people.
<b>Mesoamerica</b>	The region in which the Maya lived, spanning over Mexico and parts of Southern America.
<b>Pyramid</b>	A 3D man-made structure that is built through large cuboids of rock piled upon one another to form a triangular shape.
<b>Deity</b>	A synonym for god.
<b>Chichen Itza</b>	One of the best-preserved examples of a Mayan city.
<b>Legend</b>	A story told that has a religious origin usually comprising of a mortal vs immortal being.
<b>Hieroglyph</b>	A symbol that has a worded meaning, read like our graphemes.
<b>Maize</b>	Corn – a major resource of food for Mayan people. Part of their religious culture too.
<b>Sacrifice</b>	A slaughtering of an animal or human as an offering to please the gods.

#### Mayan Timeline



**Key Question:** What did the Maya achieve and how do we know this?

**Key Learning:** The Maya are famous for developing their own number and writing systems. They also built amazing towns and pyramids. We know this as some of their buildings still survive and we have artefacts with their carvings on.

**Key Question:** How different was daily life for a Maya child?

**Key Learning:** Maya children were treated like small adults – the girls would learn to be like their mothers; learning to cook and look after the children whilst the boys would follow their fathers, learning how to hunt and fight.



**Key Question:** What were Mayan masks used for?

**Key Learning:** In their culture, the Maya would wear masks for a variety of reasons including during religious ceremonies and to scare their enemies in battle.



**Key Question:** How did the Maya use astronomy?

**Key Learning:** The Maya would use observations of the sun and planets and record the changing lengths of shadows to calculate the length of a day. They invented calendars based on this.

