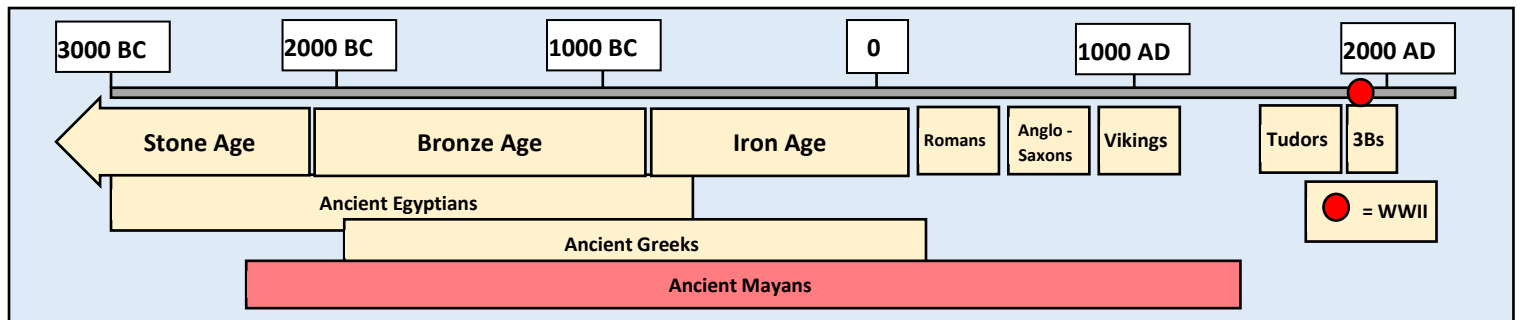



Birch Copse Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

History Topic:	Ancient Mayans	Year 5	Autumn	Theme: Society and community
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Timeline

3114 BC	Mayan calendar begins on August 13 th
Pre-classic Period	2500 BC: People start to live in simple houses in small settlements surrounded by farmland.
	700 BC: They develop their own hieroglyphic writing
	300 BC: Cities start to develop including Tikal and El Mirador. They are ruled by kings.
	100 BC: Tikal becomes a city-state of about 40,000 people.
	50 BC: The first Mayan pyramids are built. They are tiered with a temple at the top.
Classic Period	250: Mayan civilisation grew to about 40 big cities with temples, palaces, and roads. There are now nobles and priests, as well as farmers.
	220: First Royal dynasty begins when Yax Moch Xoc becomes the first king of Tikal.
	732: Tallest Mayan pyramid built in Tikal
	
Post-classic Period	1000: The famous stepped pyramid called "El Castillo" is built in the city of Chichen Itza
	1200: In the North area of Yucatan, Hunac Ceel becomes king starting the Cocom dynasty , who rule the Yucatan for about 250 years.
	1441: Northern cities are abandoned and the Maya civilisation has ended. Local chiefs now rule.
1524	The Spanish conquer the land (AD 1524 to 1546).

What are the Mayans famous for?

Maths	They invented a number system using dots for 1 and a line for 5. They were the first to use zero! It used a base of 20, unlike ours which uses 10.
Astronomy	They were great astronomers. They noted the movements of the sun, moon, stars and planets.
Calendar	They used maths and astronomy to develop accurate calendars to help with the farming cycle
Chocolate	The Mayans invented chocolate! They used the Cacao bean which grew in that area
Sport	They played the earliest team sport in the world! Called Pok-a-tok, teams had to get a rubber ball through a hoop.

Mayan Hieroglyphics



Where?

The Ancient Mayan civilisation was in Central America. It was in the modern countries of: South East **Mexico**, **Guatemala**, **Belize** and parts of **El Salvador** and **Honduras**.

Mayan Calendar



Key Vocabulary

Astronomy	A science which looks at space and how the sun, moon, stars and planets move
City state	A city that rules itself and the surrounding area (like a mini-country)
Civilisation	When people live in large, organised groups.
Conquer	When someone takes over land and people
Dynasty	A period of rule by leaders who all came from the same family
Hieroglyphics	Writing that uses symbols and pictures
Nobles	Important people in society
Settlement	A place where people make their home.
Temple	A building used for worshiping a god or gods.

Key people

Hunac Ceel	The first king of the Cocom dynasty
Pakal the Great	Ruled the city of Palenque for 68 years from the age of 12. His stunning funeral mask was carved from Jade.
Yax Moch Xoc	founder of the city of the city state of Tikal.



El Castillo temple

Pakal's mask

Key Questions

- What role did maths have in the success of the Mayans?
- How different was the life of a Mayan compared to the life of a Briton during this period?
- What happened to the Mayan Civilisation following the Spanish invasion?