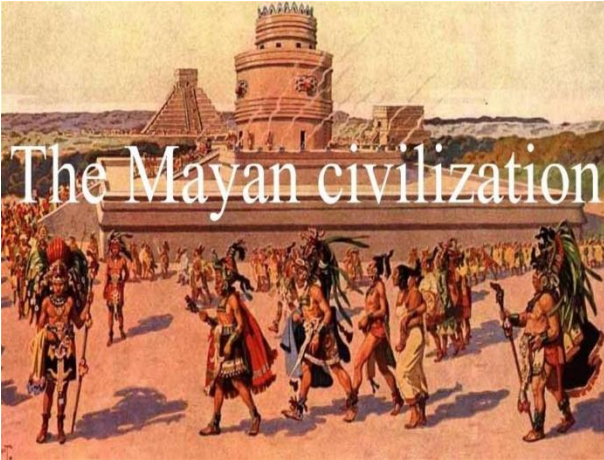




By the end of this project, I will know the answers to these questions	
When did the Mayan civilisation begin? When did it end?	Between 2600BC and 1800BC AD900 - however there are still indigenous Mayan people living in Central America
Where did the Mayans live?	Central America - Mesoamerica - Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, Yucatan Peninsula and El Salvador
Who were the main people in Ancient Maya?	Pakal the Great (603-683AD) is perhaps the most famous Maya monarch. He was the king of the city-state Palenque, for 68 years, longer than any other leader. He became King when he was only 12, but grew to be a powerful leader expanding his kingdom eastwards. Yax K'uk Mo (426-437BC) was the founder and first king of the Maya city of Copan (in Honduras). Although he only reigned for 11 years himself, he built a strong rule meaning that his dynasty was in place for around 350 years.
What was life like for children?	During the Maya civilisation there were no formal schools for the children of commoners; the children of the nobles, however, were educated by a class of priests. The children during this period of time spent most of their time helping their parents farming - which was the main occupation during this time. By the time a child was 4 or 5 they were given daily jobs to do so that they could learn to be a farmer or farmers wife. By the time they were 15 they were considered an adult and fully trained for their life's work.
What was the class structure in Ancient Maya?	During this civilisation there was a class structured society. At the top were the nobles and priests. They had a middle class of craftsmen, traders and warriors. At the bottom were the farmers and slaves. The Maya didn't use their own people as slaves they were captured from other tribes.
What was daily life like for the majority of Maya?	Life for Maya commoners involved hard physical labour. However, this didn't mean that they were unhappy; farming families lived simply but ate well their work fed the family and the surplus fed everyone else. Women worked in the home: cooking, grinding corn, raising children, tending gardens and weaving cloth for clothes. Men went off to work in the fields - growing corn, beans and squash. Some families kept livestock such as dogs, turkeys and ducks but men also went hunting for food. The bottom end of the society would start their days very early. Life during this time wasn't all work. At least once every month a religious festival took place in the city where they would sing, dance and worship their many gods.
What Gods did the Mayans worship?	The Maya worshiped many gods and goddesses - between a staggering 166 and 250 named gods! However, some of the main Gods and Goddesses were: Itzamna, one of the creator gods - inventor of writing - patron of learning; Kukulcan, supreme god - god of the four elements - god of resurrection and reincarnation - his name means 'feathered serpent'; Ix Chel, wife of Itzamnaaj - Goddess of childbirth, healing, weaving and the moon - capable of causing floods and destruction; Hun Ixim, god of maize which was responsible for 80% of Maya food; Chac, the rain god - created storms, thunder and lightning - brought the rain needed to grow the crops - caused wars and human sacrifice; Kinich Ahau, sun God - travelled across the sky during the day - sunk below the earth and entered the underworld every night where he became a jaguar god; Ah Puch, death god.
What was war and weaponry like?	The Maya went to war for a variety of reasons ranging from environmental challenges to a scarcity of resources. Some of the warriors of Ancient Maya were more powerful than the nobles they served. Warriors spent their lives training to be better warriors. The Maya didn't use metal weaponry they used weapons made of wood, stone and shells. They carried shields. Battles during this period of time were only fought during the day - a temporary peace was called each night. The battles continued day after day until the leader of either army was injured or killed; when that happened, the war was over. The losers had to pay tribute to the winners which was negotiated. This could be anything including: goods, people, textiles, gold, silver, copper and salt.
Greater Depth	How has the Mayan civilisation helped to sculpt the world in which we live now? How important were they for things we take for granted? Which level of society was most important for the success and survival of the Mayan civilisation



Skills I will require and apply:

- Research using books and the internet
- Comprehension of different text types
- Geographical skills to locate key locations
- Analysing primary and secondary sources of historical evidence
- Develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of world history
- Compare and contrast a non-European society with British history.
- Describe and understand key aspects of physical and human geography

To hook me into this project I will:

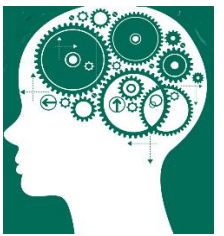
Vocabulary	Tier 2 and Tier 3		
Invasion - an instance of invading a country or region with an armed force.	Astronomy - The study of the sun, moon, planets and stars	City-state - A city and the villages and land surrounding it, ruled by one leader	Altitude - the height of an object or point in relation to sea level or ground level.
Excavate - to remove by scooping or digging out	Atlatl - A spear thrower	Diplomatic - of or concerning diplomacy.	Codex - An ancient book
Motif - a recurring architectural or decorative design	Batab - A lord who usually ruled over a small town	Aqueduct	A channel made by man that carries water to where it is needed
Stelae - an upright stone slab or column typically bearing a commemorative inscription or relief design, often serving as a gravestone	Cacao - The seeds of the cacao tree which are used to make cocoa and chocolate	Baktun	A period of about 400 years
Hieroglyphs - a stylised picture of an object representing a word, syllable, or sound	Archaeologist - A person who studies history and investigates places and objects left behind	Celiba	A large sacred tree found in the Maya regions
Monument - a statue, building or other structure erected to commemorate a notable person or event	Withdraw - leave or cause to leave a place or situation.	Cenote	A reservoir found underground in the limestone of Yucatan, Mexico

Texts/books I will be using in this project:

- The Great Kapok Tree
- Chocolate Tree
- The Hero Twins: Against the Lords of Death
- The History Detective Investigates: Mayan Civilisation

Life Skills

- Persistence Well-being Health Resilience
Empathy Respect Responsibility Right and wrong



Metacognition

What am I being asked to do? Which strategies will I use? Are there any strategies that I have used before that might be useful?

