



### What should I already know?

- The Roman invasion in Europe and the chronology of British History up to AD1066.
- How to interpret sources and ways historians understand the past
- The achievements and legacy of significant groups in Britain
- How to identify similarities and differences between ways of life.



The Maya built cities, pyramids and ornate sculptures in the rainforest.

### Achievements and Legacy

They had advanced mathematical knowledge and used a base 20 system.

They are one of two known groups to develop the concept of zero which unlocks larger place value.

The Maya had a keen interest in astronomy and had an impressive understanding that they used to produce accurate calendars which supported agriculture and precise record keeping.



### Society

The Maya had a fixed hierarchy with the Ahau (ruler) at the peak and most people working as craftsmen or farmers near the bottom of the hierarchy.

Priests and nobles also held political power and could advise the Ahau.

### Technical vocabulary

|              |                                                                                                                    |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Civilisation | a large, organized group of people living together in towns or cities with their own laws, jobs and shared culture |
| City-State   | an independent city that acts like its own small country, with its own government, laws and leader                 |
| Monarchy     | a type of government where a country is led by a single person, like a king or a queen.                            |
| Lowland city | busy urban areas built on flat or gently rolling land that sits low down, close to sea level                       |

### Trade

The Maya traded across land and river routes.

They traded many agricultural products including cacao alongside obsidian, feathers and more.

### Culture

The Maya were polytheist.

They believed the Ahau could commune with the gods.

The priests could write and write.

They were advanced mathematically and astronomically.

