



What similarities and differences are there between the Maya civilisation and England from 8th to 10th century?



Phase: UKS2

Topic: Maya

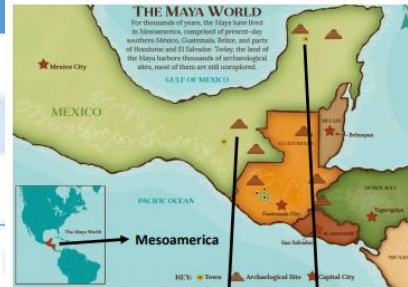
What should I already know?

- South America is a **continent**.
- The **climate** of South America is different to that of the UK.
- **Human** and **physical geographical** features of a region in South America.
- Other **civilisations** include the Greeks.
- The chronology of British history.

Maya

- Used **limestone** for building and **obsidian** for tools.
- Had to use special farming techniques to survive.
- Cities grew and were filled with temples, ball courts and plazas
- King (**Ajak**) was at the top of the hierarchy and Commoners at the bottom.
- Maya were not a united empire
- Each Maya city was a state with its own ruler and council of high priests
- Maya controlled a city – single seat of power
- Maya cities fought with each other.
- Tan Te' K'inich was the Ajaw of Aguateca
- Aguateca was built upon a large **limestone** cliff, making the city extremely difficult to attack. In the centre of the city, a deep natural **ravine** separated the important government and religious buildings from the rest of the **settlement**.
- Archaeologists do not agree about what caused some city states to be **abandoned**.
- In the 10th century, Chichen Itza grew: it had a **port** so **obsidian** and **jadeite** could be shipped into the city.

Where did the Mayans live?



Famous **Mayan** cities include Palenque and Chichen Itza, which are found in Mexico.

What did the Ancient Maya believe?

Religion was very important to the Ancient Maya, evidenced by their impressive temples. The Ancient Maya worshipped their kings like they were gods but they also worshipped their ancestors and a range of different gods and goddesses.

How was the Ancient Maya society structured?

Like many ancient civilisations, a clear social hierarchy formed. The Maya lived in many city states and each city state had its own ruler.

Technical vocabulary

drought	a lack of rainfall
irrigate	adding water to farming fields
porous	water can soak into it
limestone	a rock which is used for building
jadeite	a hard, green stone used to make jewellery
settlement	a place where people have settled to live
ravine	a deep, narrow valley
ajaw	a Maya king/leader
obsidian	a dark, shiny volcanic glass used to make tools and jewellery
annex	to make part of an existing kingdom/country
hostile	unfriendly
civilisation	a human society with its own social organisation and culture

What were their achievements?

The Maya were an advanced civilisation who communicated using their own language (Mayan), had a written form of communication (glyphs), developed one of the most advanced complex numerical systems of their time and invented their own calendar, among many other things.

What was daily life like for the Maya?

Ordinary Maya citizens lived in one room houses built from mud and timber. Men were responsible for providing for their families, women would prepare food and clothes and the children would learn these skills from their parents. Maya people would eat meat as well as their own grown crops, but maize was their staple food. The cacao bean was used to make a drink for the ruling classes.

Anglo-Saxon England

- England was not a united country and was split into **kingdoms**
- An Anglo-Saxon king controlled all **settlements** – villages, towns and cities
- King Offa built a ditch (Offa's Dyke) to stop people from Powys attacking Mercia.
- The dominant **kingdom** shifted between Mercia and Wessex until the Vikings invaded.

Timeline

11,000 B.C.	2000 B.C.	250 B.C.	AD 250	AD 800	Today
The first hunter-gatherers settle along the Pacific Coast then expanding into the Central highlands.	Village farming and trade becomes established throughout the Maya region.	First kings are identified in carvings on stela (stone monuments).	By this stage, the Maya had many established cities. They had many monuments, pyramids and devised a writing and maths	Sites in the tropical lowlands are abandoned while northern lowland sites flourish	There are still 7 million indigenous (people belonging to the country in which they are found) Maya people living in Central America

