



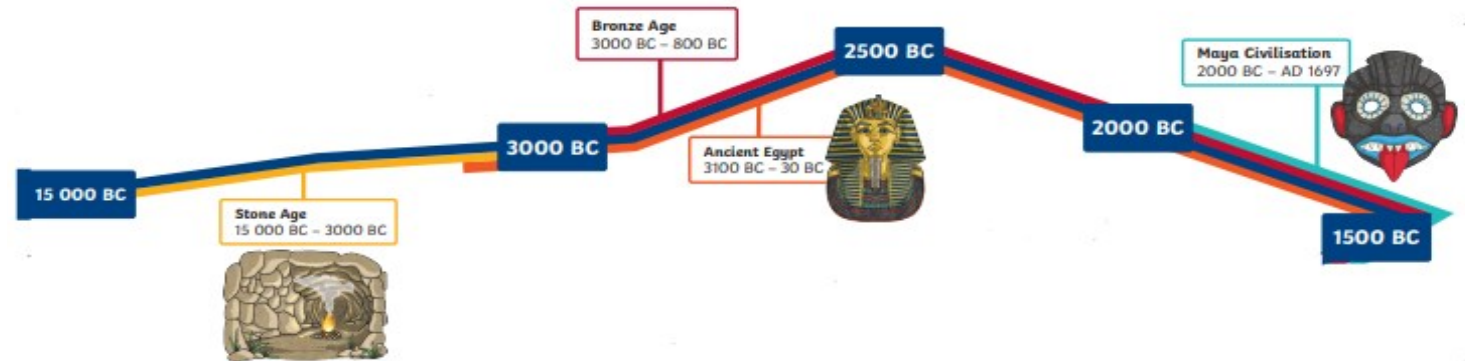
Year 5 History Knowledge Organisers



Y5—Autumn Term— Rainforests and

Mayans

The Mayans were an ancient Stone Age civilisation who lived in Mexico, in Central America, just north of South America. They often lived in rainforests. The Mayans are considered to be one of the more advanced Stone Age civilisations because they used the rainforest effectively.



Everyday life

Buildings and homes: The Maya built pyramids, temples, palaces, walls, houses and more. They often decorated their buildings with stone carvings, statues, and paint. Mayan houses walls made of stone or mud.

Craft: They were very good at using feathers for costumes and shells for wind musical instruments in ceremonies and warfare.

Food and farming: Through farming, they grew maize and ground it into flour to make a tortilla-type of bread. They also gave the world chocolate, which they drank flavoured with chillis. The Mayans also used cocoa beans as a form of currency and created a good trade system.

Numbers and writing: The Maya developed a complex number and counting system that was advanced for their time. They were one of only two cultures in the world to develop the concept of zero. Maya scribes also wrote books, called codices. Only priests and noblemen would know the whole written language.

Impact on us today: The Mayans have helped shaped our lives today in many ways: they created a calendar system and developed writing as a form of communication, they were skilled farmers and grew a range of crops for food, they developed many ways to create buildings— they did this without tools and they created trade routes and developed a currency.

Religion

The Maya believed in and worshipped a number of different gods. They believed that the gods had a good side and a bad side and that the gods could help or hurt them. The Maya would dance, sing and sometimes make offerings of blood to the gods. Priests were very important in Maya society as it was believed that they could communicate directly with the gods.

Vocabulary

hieroglyphics— Writing consisting of pictures, like those also used by the Ancient Egyptians.

civilisation— An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time

culture— Culture is a word for the 'way of life' of groups of people, meaning the way they do things.

ritual— A ceremony, often religious, with set actions performed in a set order.

cacao— Seeds from small tropical American tree from which cocoa / chocolate is made

Y5—Summer Term—Greece

The Ancient Greeks were an ancient civilisation that dominated much of the Mediterranean thousands of years ago. The Greeks had a huge impact on the world and our lives today! Many of their ideas are still used today.

Ancient Greek Buildings

The Ancient Greeks had a unique style of architecture that is still copied today. Greek architecture is known for tall columns and intricate detail. The main examples of Greek architecture that survive today are the large temples that they built to their gods. The most famous temple of Ancient Greece is the Parthenon in the city of Athens.



Alexander The Great

Alexander the Great was a king of Ancient Greece. He is considered one of the greatest military commanders in history. Alexander's father had built up a strong empire in Ancient Greece, which Alexander inherited. Alexander turned east to conquer more of the civilized world. He moved swiftly using his military genius to win battle after battle.

Theatre

Almost every Greek city had a theatre. The theatres were open air and built in a semi-circular shape with rows of tiered stone seating around it. All the actors were men. They wore large masks that exaggerated facial features and emotions.



Democracy

It was in Greece that democracy was born. The word democracy means "rule by the people." In a democracy the people have a say in how the government is run. Democracy is still important to us today and is one of the five British Values. We value the importance of democracy in school by voting to elect student leaders like school councillors.

Sport

The Olympic Games began in Olympia in Greece. The Ancient Greeks have influenced Britain and the world today within sports, physical fitness and mental fitness. We still compete in the Olympics today!

Vocabulary

Civilisation- A group of people with their own way of life

Chronological- Time order

Ancient- The very distant past

BC/BCE- Before Christ/ Before common era

AD/CE – Anno Domini/ Common Era

Olympics Games- Originally, a religious festival, held in honour of Zeus. Attended by people in Greece. Now a major worldwide sporting competition

Influence- The effect of someone of something on someone or something

Legacy- Something handed down from the past

Reliability- The quality of something

Bias- Prejudice towards a certain view or opinion

Relevant- Appropriate