

# The Mighty Maya

## HISTORY

The Maya Civilisation period was from 1100BCE to 1502ACE in Mesoamerica

The Maya writing system was made up of logograms and syllabograms

The Maya wrote books called codices; there are only 4 left (and one may not be authentic).

Catholic priest Diego de Landa ordered Maya books to be burnt as he thought they were the work of the Devil.

The Maya used a pictorial numerical system

The Maya had a polytheistic religion. Three of the main gods were: Itzama, Kukulcan and the Maize God

There were many different city states – each had their own leader, culture and language.

Chichen Itza is the most famous of these cities and is one of the 7 Wonders of the World, and includes El Castillo, the Cenote and the Temple of Warriors amongst other sites.

From around 1517 - 1697 Spanish invaders (conquistadores) started to destroy the Maya cities and people.

Possible reasons for the decline of the Maya include deforestation, drought, war and illness and the invasion of the Spanish.

Secondary sources can be used to retrieve information and make inferences about the past.



## ART AND DESIGN

To design and make a 3D Maya mask (either a death, war or celebration mask)

Modroc can be used to build a solid 3D sculpture

3D effects can be created using cardboard and other techniques.



## GEOGRAPHY

Central America includes countries, including Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador

The Yucatan is an area of Mexico where many of the Maya ruins are situated, including Chichen Itza

Borders between countries are shown with solid lines on maps.



## KEY VALUES

**Wisdom:** have knowledge of imperialism and colonisation, and the indigenous people of Mesoamerica.

Understand the wisdom of the Maya – maths, language, science, and technology

**Bravery:** the Maya showed bravery through their sacrifices, especially through their games and battles

**Kindness:** the Maya were welcoming to the Spanish when they first arrived.

## KEY VOCABULARY

**Mesoamerica:** Mesoamerica is a historical region and cultural area that begins in the southern part of North America and extends to most of Central America.

**Yucatan peninsula:** a large peninsula (a piece of land that is almost entirely surrounded by water but is connected to the mainland on one side) in southeast Mexico

**Conquistadors:** the Spanish conquerors of Mexico and Peru of the 16th century.

**Polytheistic:** a religion containing more than one god/goddess.

**Colonialism/imperialism:** control by an empire over an area or people to gain power and wealth.

**Codex/codices:** Maya books.

**Logogram:** Maya hieroglyphs that represent a word

**Syllabogram:** Maya hieroglyphs that represent a sound