

**Year 5 Medium Term History Planner**  
**Mayan Civilization**

<p><b>NC link</b> Pupils should be taught about a non-European society that provides contrasts with British history.</p>		<p><b>Key Vocabulary</b> Maya, Mayan, civilization, empire, jungle, crops, maize, irrigate, hunt, trade, terrain, society, temples, pyramids, lords, priests, slaves, sacrifices, hierarchy, drought, over population, warfare, discontent</p>	
<p>Enquiry Question 1: <b>Why do you think we study the Mayan empire in school? Who were the Maya?</b></p>	<p>Enquiry Question 2: <b>Who were Stephens and Catherwood and why were they so important in the rediscovery of Maya?</b></p>	<p>Enquiry Question 3: <b>What was daily life like for the people of the Maya?</b></p>	<p>Enquiry Question 4: <b>What were the achievements of the Mayan civilizations?</b></p>
<p>Consider: When did the Maya civilization take place? Where does it sit on the timeline? How does it compare to developments happening in Britain at the time? Are there still Maya people alive today?</p> <p><b>Historical skills:</b> Chronological Understanding</p>	<p>Consider: Who were Stephens and Catherwood? What did they discover? How did they discover the ruins and what did they have to endure to do this?</p> <p><b>Historical skills:</b> Historical enquiry Historical interpretation</p>	<p>Consider: What was the social hierarchy? What did people eat? What was the terrain like that they lived in and how did that impact upon their health?</p> <p><b>Historical skills:</b> Knowledge and understanding of events, people, and changes in the past.</p>	<p>Consider: What was the significance of their inventions? How much impact has this had on our life today? Calendars, medicines, writing systems, farming techniques, chocolate</p> <p><b>Historical skills:</b> Historical interpretation Organisation and Communication</p>
<p>Enquiry Question 5: <b>How significant was religion to the Maya?</b></p>	<p>Enquiry Question 6: <b>How can we solve the riddle of why the Mayan empire declined so quickly?</b></p>	<p>Notes:</p> <p>WARNING – the Maya believed in human sacrifice – be aware of this and plan accordingly for the needs/sensitivities of your pupils.</p> <p>*Trip to York Chocolate Shop – they have a KS2 workshop: Meet the Maya the original chocolatiers.</p>	
<p>Consider: How important were priests in the lives of people and their beliefs? Did the Mayan's have Gods? When did they pray? Did they have buildings of religious significance?</p> <p><b>Historical skills:</b> Knowledge and understanding of events, people, and changes in the past.</p>	<p>Consider: What was the range of factors involved in the rapid decline; drought, over population, warfare, poor land, disease, popular discontent. Can we be certain of the cause without written records? What was happening in Britain at the time.</p> <p><b>Historical skills:</b> Historical interpretation Chronological Understanding</p>		

