

Prior Knowledge/Key knowledge	
Key Facts	
Number	The Maya developed an advanced number system for their time. They were one of only two cultures in the world to develop the concept of zero as a placeholder. The number system used three symbols in different combinations.
Food	The Maya people mainly ate maize (corn). Maize was very important to them as they believed that the first humans were made from maize dough by the gods. The Maya made a bitter chocolatey drink from cacao beans that was enjoyed by the rich. It was used for medicines and in ceremonies. The cacao beans were highly valued and even used as a form of money.
Writing	<p>The Maya writing system was used to write several different Maya languages. It was made up of many symbols called glyphs.</p> <p>Logograms are glyphs representing whole words.</p> <p>Syllabograms are glyphs representing units of sound (syllables).</p> <p>The glyphs were carved on stone buildings and monuments and painted on pottery.</p> <p>Maya scribes also wrote books called codices.</p>
Religion	<p>The Maya believed in many gods and goddesses. They thought that the gods/ goddesses had a good side and a bad side and that they could help or hurt them. The Maya people would dance, sing and make offerings to the gods/ goddesses.</p> <p>Maya priests were believed to be able to communicate directly with the gods/ goddesses. As a result, they were very important in society.</p>



# The Mayan Civilization Term Four - Year 5 & 6

Key Skills	
Order	The timeline of events of the Maya Civilization.
Design	Your own mask or headdress.
Research	Ancient myths and facts about Mayan cities.
Recite	The Mayan creation story.

Vocabulary	
Civilisation	A human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
Drought	A long period of time with little or no rain.
Jaguar	A big cat, heavier than a leopard, with yellowish fur and black spots.
Scribes	People trained to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write.
Codices	Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.
Maize	Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas.
Cacao Beans	Cacao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When they are ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans, which can then be dried, roasted and ground