



What should I already know?

That other countries were going through a variety of historical periods.

That not all countries went through the same changes as Britain at the same time.

Children may also know about the urban legend of the Mayan Calendar, famous for claiming the world would end in 2012.

What will I know by the end of the unit?

- The Upper and Underworld were believed to exist by the Maya people and that they lived on the Middleworld.
- The entrances to the Upper and Underworld were guarded by gods of death who looked like jaguars.
- That the Maya believed in and worshipped a number of different gods.
- They believed that the gods had a good side and a bad side.
- Priests were very important in Maya society as it was believed that they could communicate directly with gods.
- To be able to explain some of the achievements of the Ancient Maya such as drainage canals and irrigation channels.

Vocabulary

Civilisation	An organized society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time.
Drought	A long period with very little rain.
Ritual	A ceremony, often religious, with set actions performed in a set order.
Jaguar	A big cat, heavier than a leopard, with yellowish fur and black spots.
Scribes	People paid 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.

Key Dates

2000BC - Mayan Civilisation began
1500AD - Ancient Mayan Civilisation ends

Key Events

In 300BC, El Mirador became large and powerful but by AD 900 cities in the rainforest were abandoned due to extensive drought. This caused people to move north to the highlands of Guatemala and the Yucatan.

Historical Skills

- How to use a range of sources to find out about the past
- How to gather more detail from sources such as maps to build up a clearer picture of the past





Mini-Assessment

Question 1 How many Mayan languages were there?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Only 1		
31		
11		

Question 2 Where did the Maya civilization first begin?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Mesoamerica		
Ancient Egypt		
Mesopotamia		

Question 3 Which of the following is not a famous Mayan city?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Chichen Itza		
Babylon		
Palenque		

Question 4
Can you name one of the Mayan Gods and say what they were worshipped for?

Start of unit

End of unit

Question 5
Can you name a famous Mayan invention and say what it was used for?

Start of unit

End of unit

Question 6
What were the three layers of the world that the Mayans believed in and where did humans live?

Start of unit

End of unit
