

History Medium Term Plan Y5

NC POS: A non European society that provides a contrast with British history **Mayan civilisation** (AD 900)

Concept:

Similarity and difference- how have settlements developed?

Democracy- Social structure, monarchy

Chronology- growth and development over time civilisation,

Key vocabulary: archaeology, astronomy, civilisation, social class, Meso- America, power, agriculture, engineering

Prior content: chronology of British history at the same period, interpretation of evidence and artefacts, earliest civilisations

Core knowledge- In depth study :

Chronology Where on the timeline?

Mayan civilisation lasted for more than 2,000 years, but the period from about 300AD to 900AD known as the Classic period was its heyday. During that then the Mayan developed a complex understanding of astronomy.

Agriculture Small farms but grew more for trading, used astronomy to aid farming and farmed in different ways using raised farming, terraces, and 'slash and burn'

Religion Priests had a great deal of power, they believed in heaven and hell and had many gods. Sacrifice was part of their religion but it was not always human sacrifice and other traditions such as bloodletting took place regularly.

Social structure Status was hereditary and it was very difficult to move upwards. Sons would take on their father's jobs. Women could be part of government, economics and religion but could not marry outside of their social class.

Trade As the cities were under separate rule, rather than one empire, cities relied on links for food and tools. Mayans used the rivers to transport people and trade. They would trade materials such as obsidian, flint, jade and foods such as maize, chilli and chocolate. Cities would also have market places for trade.

Maths Has a number system which they used for astronomy, architecture and trading, They had a zero. **Astronomy** They had two calendars, a sacred one (260 days) and a secular one (365 days – linked to farming).

City, structure and architecture

Each city had a similar pattern with a place for the ruler, a central plaza for the market, a ball court and various temples. Residential areas were outside the city centre. Many of the central building and temples still stand today as a testimony of their engineering.

Wider influences/Contrasts with British history

Struggles for power

Architecture

Writing – Mayans developed one of the first written languages

Monarchy

Enduring understanding:

Developments and achievements in maths, astronomy, architecture and agriculture

Societal structure. The ancient **Mayans were** known to **have** invented astonishing scientific achievements in various areas, such as astronomy, agriculture, engineering and communications.

Trade and transport links

