

# Knowledge Organiser

# The Mayans

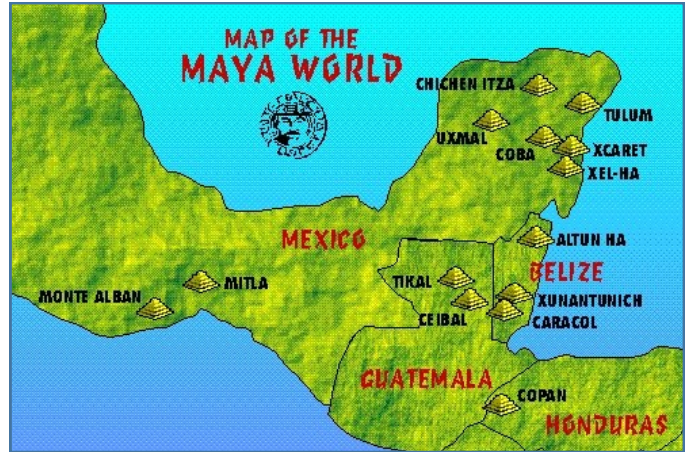
## Who were the Mayans?

The Mayan (or Maya) people lived in Mesoamerica, which is modern day Mexico and Central America. Evidence of Mayan civilisation has been found from as far back as 2000BC and it lasted until 1697AD.

## Mayan facts:

- The Maya had no central king ruling their huge empire. Instead, there were as many as 20 separate areas, each with its own ruler and noble class supported by smaller cities and the surrounding farms and villages.
- The Ancient Maya developed the science of astronomy, calendar systems and hieroglyphic writing.
- They were also known for creating elaborate ceremonial architecture, such as pyramids, temples, palaces and observatories. These structures were all built without metal tools.
- The Maya had many different gods. Mayan religion was divided into three parts with Earth, the level above the Earth (like Christian Heaven), and the level below the Earth (like Christian Hell).

## Where did the Mayans live?



## Maya Vocabulary

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| • Maya         | • Calendar      |
| • Mayan        | • Astronomy     |
| • Civilisation | • King          |
| • Culture      | • Hieroglyph    |
| • BC / AD      | • Maize         |
| • Empire       | • Chilli pepper |
| • Pyramid      | • Avocado       |
| • Temple       | • Tropical      |

## ANCIENT MAYA TIMELINE

