



Trailblazers Summer Term 2 – Ancient Maya Overview, Vocabulary and Sticky Knowledge



What do I already know?

In Explorers, I learned that...

- There are 7 continents of the world: Europe, Africa, Asia, North America, South America and Australasia.

In Philosophers, I learned that...

- Tombs contain a King's personal belongings which they want to take with them into the afterlife.
- The Egyptians were the first civilizations to invent writing.
- Egyptians used to mummify dead bodies and place them in a sarcophagus (decorated coffin)

In Trailblazers, I learned that...

- There are 23 countries in North America, with Canada being the biggest.
- Mexico is located on the North American continent and shares borders with the USA in the North and Belize and Guatemala in the South.
- The climate varies from tropical climate to desert climate. Mexico has four time zones and is located in the Ring of Fire!

What am I going to learn about this half term?

- Who were the Maya?
- Where did they live?
- Why were the Maya seen as innovators?
- Were they similar to other groups in history?
- Are they still alive today?

Key Vocabulary:



Challenging vocabulary.

Socio-economic factors, arid, codex

Words to learn.

Buffalo, pagan,, Economical, Reserve, Emigrate, Immigrate, maize, Maya, Chechen Itza, lologram, prairies, border, cacao, batab, Itzamna, Kin

Words I should know.

Atlantic, Caribbean, culture, race, tension, conflict, Civil Rights, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, state, New York, Washington D.C., border, immigrant, dollar, cent, biome, tropics, Capricorn, temperate, sacrifice, ritual, hieroglyphs, civilisation

Topic Traveller Question:

Should we build walls or bridges?

Answer this question in a creative way and bring into school at the end of this half term.

Sticky Knowledge:

- Mayans. The Mayan, or Maya, peoples made their home in an area known as Mesoamerica (modern day Mexico and Central America). Mayan culture was well established by 1000 BCE, and it lasted until 1697.
- The Mayans were expert mathematicians and astronomers. They used this expertise to make calendars.
- Although the Mayans had metal-working skills, metal ores were scarce. Mayans used stone tools to carve the limestone that they used for their buildings.
- Mayan religion was extremely bloodthirsty, demanding human sacrifices and blood-letting rituals. The Mayans believed in an afterlife and that those who were sacrificed, as well as those killed in war and women who died in childbirth, went to 'the place of misty sky'.
- At the top of Mayan society was the king and royal family who were believed to be closely linked to the gods. An educated elite of scribes, priests and nobles formed the ruling class. They occupied the finest buildings in the city.
- Mayan society was formed of a number of city states each with their own ruler.



Map of Mexico



Mexican Pesos



Chechen Itza



The US-Mexico Border Wall