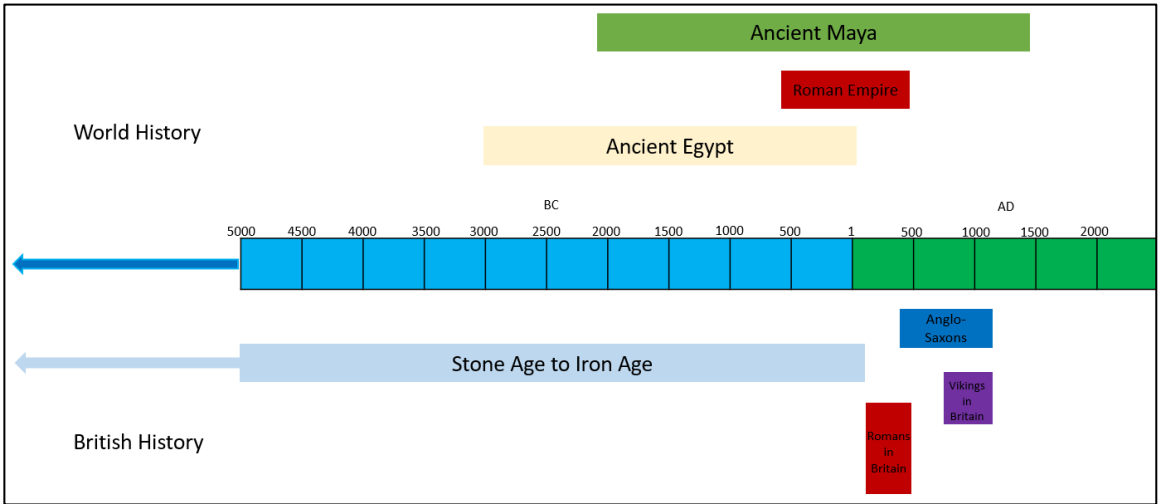




THE MAYA — WHAT SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES ARE THERE BETWEEN THE MAYA CIVILIZATION AND ENGLAND FROM THE 8TH TO THE 10TH CENTURY?



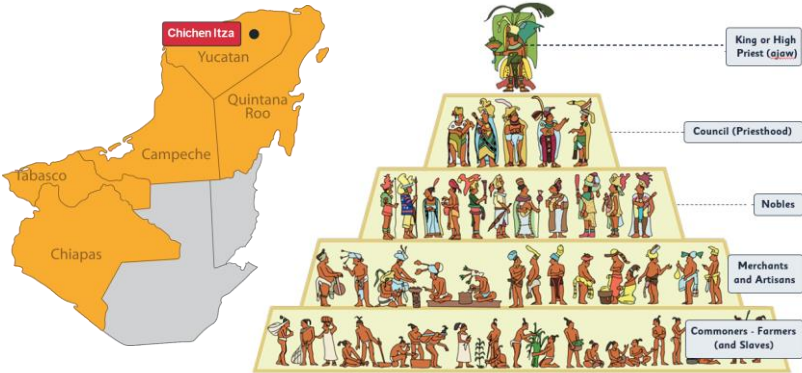
| | | Key Vocabulary |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Drought | | A lack of rainfall. |
| Irrigate | | Adding water to farming fields. |
| Crops | | Plants are grown to be farmed and eaten. |
| Porous | | Water can be soaked into it. |
| Limestone | | A rock which builders use for building. |
| Jadeite | | A hard, green stone used to make jewellery. |
| Region | | An area of land. |
| Settlement | | A place where people have settled to live. |
| Ravine | | A deep, narrow valley. |
| Ajaw | | A Maya king/leader. |
| Kingdom | | A place ruled by a king, queen or important person. |
| Obsidian | | A dark, shiny volcanic glass used to make tools and jewellery. |
| Port | | A place where ships and boats unload. |
| Annex | | To make part of an existing kingdom/country. |
| Trade | | The act of buying and selling things. |

The Ancient Maya

People have lived in this region for over **12,000 years**, and when they settled here first, **they were hunter-gatherers**. This means they migrated across the land, **searching for food and places to settle**. Over time, these people learned to farm and settled in small villages. Eventually, these grew into **large city-states** spread across what would one day become **Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador and Honduras**.

Who ruled the Maya?

The Maya **were not a united empire** of people with a capital city like **Ancient Egypt**. Instead, each city was a **state** with its own ruler and council of **high priests**. The **city-states** of the Maya often went to war with each other to prove that they were the strongest in the region.



Timeline

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 11,000 BCE The first hunter-gatherers settled along the Pacific Coast and expanded into the central highlands. | 2,000 BCE Village farming and trade became established throughout the Maya Region. | 100 BCE The first Maya pyramids are built. | 683 CE Pakal the Great, of Planque, died and was buried in the Temple of Inscriptions. | 1511 CE First Europeans arrived in the Yucatan. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|



| History Vocabulary | | Definition |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AD/CE | | Anno Domini (In the year of our Lord) or Common Era (after the birth of Jesus) |
| BC/BCE | | Before the Christ Event – events before the year Jesus was said to be born |
| Archaeologist | | Someone who studies buildings, graves, tools and other objects of people who lived in the past |
| Artefacts | | An object made by a person that is historically interesting |
| Cause | | The reason why something happens |
| Century | | 100 years |
| Chronology | | The order in which a series of events happened |
| Consequence | | The result of something that has happened |
| Era | | A period of time for a group of related events or people |

250 BCE
 Images of the first kings are carved on **stela** (stone monuments).

450 CE
 The city-state of Tikal dominated the tropical lowland of Peten.

800 CE
 Sites in the tropical lowlands were abandoned whilst northern lowland sites flourished.

How do we know about the Maya?

We know about the Maya because **archaeologists have found evidence of their existence**. The Maya were famous for their **wall art and beautiful writing**. Many examples have been discovered over the years, and these two records give us an idea of what life was like for the different people in Maya society. There have also been many other archaeological discoveries of **Maya tombs, funeral masks, architectural remains of the large city-states, and the famous stone pyramids** that still stand today. There is one mystery that still puzzles archaeologists today. Something strange began to happen in the **10th century** – the **Maya people** of the central Maya Lowlands **began to abandon their cities**. There is **no real evidence** to tell us why just **multiple theories**.

How did the Maya become so successful?

Farming was important for the Maya people. It was one of the main reasons that the civilisation grew and **became so powerful**. They developed many specialist **farming techniques** to help grow crops and invented a way of **collection and storing water** to irrigate their crops.

The Maya lowlands were also filled **with limestone – a perfect building material**. They also had access to plenty of **obsidian – a volcanic glass the Maya could sharpen to use as a tool**.

Over time, the city's population grew, and the Maya built **temples, ballcourts and plazas**. These were attractive places to live and work and provided a place for the Maya people to worship their gods.

Limestone obsidian