

# Mayan Civilization Year 4

## Important Questions

- 1 Who were the Mayans? When and where did they live?
- 2 What were the main Mayan achievements?
- 3 How did they organize their civilization?
- 4 What was the religion of the Mayan people?
- 5 Can you find where the Mayans lived on a modern day map?
- 6 What did the Mayans eat?



## Key Knowledge

The Mayans were a civilization who lived in Mesoamerica (now Central America) between approximately 2000BC and 900 AD.

The Mayans believed in and worshipped a number of different gods. They sacrificed humans for religious and medical reasons. It was an honour to be sacrificed!

They were the first Mesoamericans to develop writing, using over 800 symbols. They wrote books called *codices*, made from the bark of fig trees.

They built spectacular monuments and stepped pyramids - some still exist today.

They are well known for their advanced maths and calendars.

Around 900 AD, Maya cities became abandoned. No-one knows why this happened.



## Vocabulary

- |   |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| 1 | Artefact      | An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or decoration, especially one that is of historical importance. |
| 2 | Calendar      | A printed table showing all the days, weeks and months of the year.  |
| 3 | Civilization  | Human society which is organized   |
| 4 | Empire        | A group of countries ruled by a single person, government or family.   |
| 5 | Hieroglyphics | A system of writing using pictures not words.  |
| 6 | Prediction    | A statement about something that you think will happen in the future.  |
| 7 | Temple        | A building used fo the worship of a god or gods in some religion.  |
| 8 | Tomb          | A large stone structure or underground room where someone, especially important, is buried.                        |

