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| **Goonhavern Primary School- History** |
| **TOPIC: The Maya** | **YEAR:**  | **STRAND:**  |

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| **What should I know already?** | **What will I know by the end of the unit?** |
| * Stone Age people used tools made of stone. The Greeks lived in city states.
 | I know that the Maya lived in Central American over 1,000 years ago and that they built magnificent pyramids | * The **Maya** lived in Central America in what we now know as Mexico and Guatemala.
* Their civilisation was at the height of its power just over 1,400 years ago.
* The Maya built their cities, **pyramids** and temples in the steamy tropical rainforests of the Yucatan peninsula.
* The Mayan pyramids at **Chichen Itza** are visited by millions of tourists every year. Like the famous pyramids of Egypt, they are a UNESCO World Heritage site.
* The Maya built a network of roads to link their cities together
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| I know that the Maya were skilled farmers, traders, road builders and warriors.They lived in city states (like the Ancient Greeks) and these states often traded together but also sometimes fought each other. | * The rainforest provided food, and the Maya became skilled farmers, growing maize as a staple.
* They **irrigated** their crops using water from underground caves known as **cenotes**.
* As well as maize, the Maya ate food that we would recognise such as sweet potatoes and chocolate
* Their tools for farming and weapons for war were made of **obsidian**, a glassy type of stone which is hard and razor sharp.
* The Mayan city states traded goods with each other, making use of an extensive network of roads.
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| I know religion was important to the Maya and influenced every aspect of life. They believed it was important to please the gods and they made sacrifices to them.I know that Mayan civilisation went into decline about 1200 years ago and that it’s still not known for certain why this happened. | * Religion was extremely important to the Maya - they believed in a large number of nature gods.
* The most important Mayan god was called Itzamna. He created the world. The god of storms, wind and fire was known as Huracan. (This may be the origin of our word hurricane)
* Even the Mayan version of football (called **pitz**) was played to please the gods. The captain of the losing team could be **sacrificed** to the gods.
* The Maya started to abandon their cities about 1200 years ago. No-one knows for sure exactly why this happened.
* Possible reasons include shortages of food (due to their being too many mouths to feed) and warfare between the rival Mayan city states.
* In recent years archaeologists think that a very severe **drought** may have added to the problems above.
* The Maya did not completely disappear. Some people living in Central America today are descended from the Maya. Some of them speak Mayan languages as well as Spanish, the main language of Mexico and Guatemala.
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| **School Values** |
| **Five Ways to Wellbeing** |

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| **Vocabulary**  |
| **Chichen Itza** | Famous Mayan city |
| **cenote** | Underground cave filled with fresh water |
| **drought** | A period with out rain |
| **irrigation** | A system of ditches and channels used to water crops growing in fields |
| **Maya** | People who lived in Central America over 1,000 years ago and built cities with pyramids etc. |
| **obsidian** | A sharp, glassy stone used for tools and weapons |
| **pitz** | Mayan football |
| **pyramids** | Stepped four-sided temple with a square base and triangular shaped sides |
| **sacrifice** | To kill an animal or person as an offering to the gods |

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| **Image/diagram that helps me to articulate my knowledge/understanding**  | **Investigate!** |
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