



The Ancient Maya

Year 5/6

Spring Term



In the jungles and hills of Central America, lie the ruins of a society that has fascinated historians for decades – The Maya. Between 1800 BC - 1500 AD, The Maya were an astonishingly advanced society with their own way of doing everything from farming to maths. The Ancient Maya were also known for: their love of food, celebrations of religion and art, ritual ball games, complex calendar systems and the most advanced writing system in the Americas.

Reading

During Reading lessons, children will be reading and completing writing tasks based upon *Tyger* by S F Said. Children will continue to develop their inference and retrieval skills through comprehension tasks and whole class discussions. Vocabulary knowledge will be built upon throughout the text.

PE

Children will participate in lessons focusing on: American Football, Dance, Fitness Circuits and Gymnastics. Throughout their topics they will develop: teamwork, sportsmanship and leadership skills.

French

Children will develop their oral and written skills when describing items of clothing. Children will also build upon previous knowledge of colours.

Science

As a part of our Science topics 'Forces' and 'Living things and their habitats' children will learn that gravity causes objects to fall, that forces like friction, air or water resistance affect movement and that mechanisms such as levers, pulleys and gears can make forces stronger. Children will also learn how living things are grouped based on their similarities and differences and why they are classified in that way.

English

Throughout English lessons, children will continue to explore the topic of The Ancient Maya through 'Rainplayer' and 'The Hero Twins' texts before writing a diary entry and a newspaper report. Children will also be inspired by 'Journey' and 'Quest' books by Aaron Becker when writing narrative pieces. Children will continually develop their grammar, punctuation and spelling skills in order to achieve effective application within their own writing.



PSHE

Dreams and Goals and Healthy Me

Children will explore different jobs and careers before stating their dream job and the steps they will need to achieve their goals. Children will learn about different habits that can affect the body and how to have a healthy relationship with food.

RE

Why might ancient stories still be so important for religion and worldviews today?

We will identify what ancient texts might mean and how people's views can be different to others. We will discuss how stories can be told differently and why they are important to those with religious worldviews.

Maths

During our Maths sessions this term, children will learn about the following: fractions, decimals and percentages, area, perimeter, volume and statistics. Additionally, Year 6 will learn about ratio and algebra.

History and Geography

Children will use globes, atlases and maps to locate countries in Central America before identifying and comparing geographical features with that of the UK. Children will also identify how the Mayan civilisation reflects beliefs, environment and power. Children will look into economic activities and recognise how trade links were utilised effectively to strengthen the Mayan civilisation.

Art and DT

Children will be making Mayan masks using Modroc and paint. Children will also learn all about Mayan food production before researching, evaluating and cooking a Mayan dish.

Computing

Children will use flat-file databases to: organise data, answer questions, create graphs and solve problems before presenting their work. Children will also use a range of tools to create vector drawings. Additionally, Children will learn and apply knowledge of: Online Bullying, Online Relationships and Online Reputation.