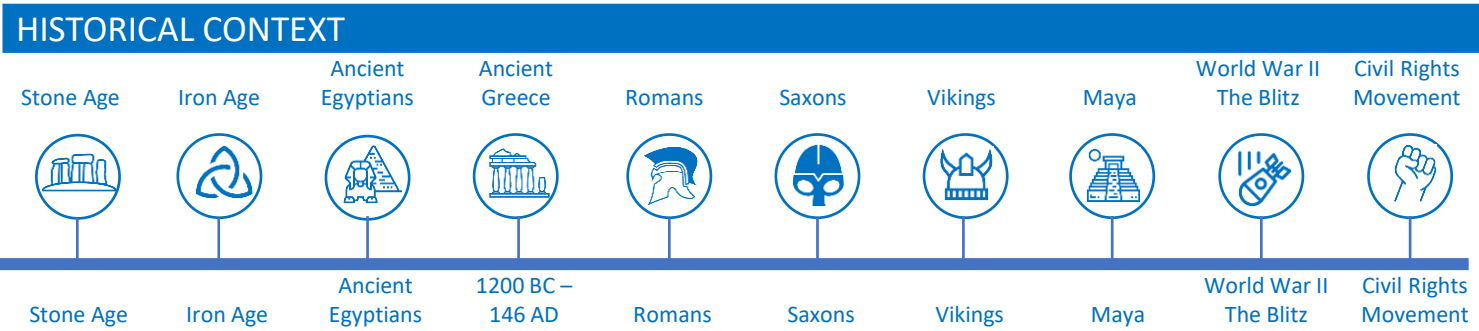


# THE MAYA



## KEY VOCABULARY

- Astronomy** The branch of science which deals with space and the physical universe as a whole.
- Cacao** Seeds that the Maya used to make chocolate.
- Cenote** A sinkhole or pit filled with water, cenotes were sources of water for the Maya.
- Civilisation** The society, culture and way of life of a particular area.
- Classic Period** The golden age of the Maya civilisation.
- Glyph** A symbol used in writing.
- Pok-a-tok** Traditional Maya ball game.
- Popol Vuh** A book or codex that described the Maya religion and mythology.
- Sacrifice** To give up something valued for the sake of something else.
- Temple** A building devoted to the worship of god or gods.

## KEY PEOPLE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Architecture** Maya cities were characterised by huge monumental buildings and sculptures, built using stone. These includes elaborated temples and steeped pyramids.
- Calendar** The Maya invented an accurate calendar using their knowledge of astronomy and mathematics.
- El Castillo** A Mesoamerican step-pyramid that dominates the centre of the Chichén Itzá archaeological site in the Mexican state of Yucatán.
- Itzamná** The main god of the Maya who created the Earth.
- Mesoamerica** Central America, the countries consist of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Belize and the western sections of Honduras and Nicaragua and northern Costa Rica .
- Number system** Maya mathematics was highly advanced. The number system included zero which many ancient civilizations didn't have meaning complex calculations could be performed quickly.
- Yucatán Peninsula** An area in south-eastern Mexico where some of the Maya civilisation lived.



## KEY EVENTS

- 1000BC** Hunter gatherers settle along the Pacific coast.
- 1100BC** Settlements begin to appear.
- 700BC** Maya writing is developed.
- 100BCE** The first Maya pyramids are built.
- 900-1200AD** El Castillo is build.
- 250AD** Beginning of the Classic Period.
- 1000AD** Chichén Itzá is the most powerful city.
- 1502AD** First contact with Europe.