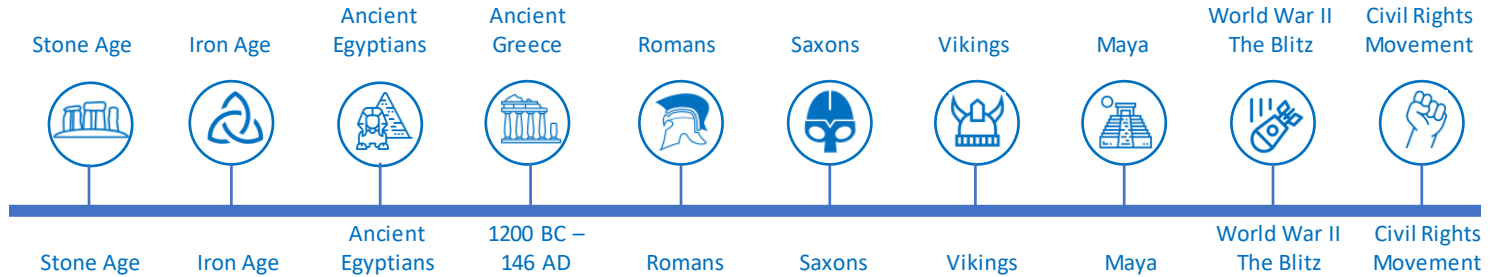


# THE MAYA

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT



### KEY VOCABULARY

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

### KEY PEOPLE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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

