

### Would you like to find out more?

1. Who were the Mayans?
2. What did they do?
3. Where did they live?
4. What legacy have they left behind?
5. What games did they play?
6. Are the Mayans still in existence today?
7. What did the Mayans invent?

# Raiders or Traders?



### Did you know?

#### Religion

They believed in and worshipped a number of different gods. They believed that gods had a good side and a bad side and that gods could help or hurt them. They would sing, dance and sometimes make offerings of blood to the gods. Priests were very important in Mayan society because it was believed that they could communicate directly with the gods. They would perform different rituals in order to appeal to the gods.

#### Food

Maize was a very important crop that formed up to 80% of the Maya people's diets. They believed that the first humans were made from maize dough by the gods. The Maya made a bitter chocolatey drink from cacao beans that was enjoyed by the rich and used for medicines and in ceremonies. The beans were highly valued and even used as a form of money.

### Mayan Facts

- The Maya civilisation was located in a place called 'Mesoamerica'. This huge area is made up of Mexico and part of Central America.
- The Mayans built amazing cities like Tikal and Palenque.
- Even though they lived in different cities, which were ruled by different kings and queens, they shared a lot of common beliefs and traditions.
- They were experts at reading the stars and even built their cities as a map of the sky!
- They were inspired by the creatures of the forest and shared many legends about animals, plants and nature spirits.
- Amazingly, one ancient Maya pyramid has only recently been discovered, in 2010, at Toniná, in the Mexican state of Chiapas. It is thought to be Mexico's tallest pyramid at 75 metres tall!
- The Maya calendar predicted that the world would end on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2012. Thankfully, they got this wrong!
- It is believed that up to 60,000 people once lived in the Maya city of Tikal.
- Mayans sacrificed humans for religious and medical reasons. It was an honour to be sacrificed!
- They were expert mathematicians and astronomers. They used this expertise to make calendars.

### Key Vocabulary

**Civilisation** - an organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time.

**Ritual** - a ceremony (often religious) with set actions performed in a set order.

**Jaguar** - a big cat, heavier than a leopard, with yellow fur and black spots.

**Scribes** - people paid to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else who was unable to write.

**Sacrifice** - a slaughtering of an animal or human as an offering to please the gods.

**Maize** - another word for corn which was a major resource of food for Mayan people. It was part of their religious culture too.

**Cacao beans** - cacao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When they are ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans, which can then be dried, roasted and ground. They used these to make chocolate!

**Mesoamerica** - the region in which the Maya lived, spanning over Mexico and parts of Southern America.

**Hieroglyphics** - a system of writing using pictures and not words.



# Raiders or Traders?

## RE

In the lead up to Easter, we re-trace the events leading up to the death of Jesus. We explore the meaning of Christ's sacrifice and what it means for us today. We will also look at the symbolism within Holy Communion and the way in which Christians use this as reminders of Christ's sacrifice and forgiveness. What sacrifices are we willing to make for others?

## Art

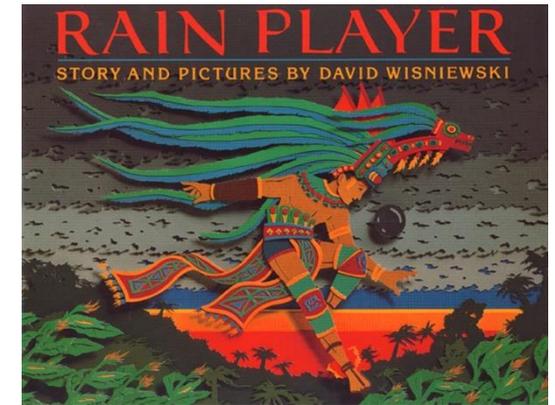
Taking inspirations from the remarkable, talented sculptures and carvings from the Mayan cities, pupils will start by designing a Mayan styled drawing. Having experimented with a wide range of clay tools, the children will then embark on creating their own Mayan inspired clay tile.

## Music and PE

We will combine the sounds of the Ancient Mayan music, with traditional Mayan inspired dance. Traditional use of dance and music told narratives within the villages- that of well-respected chiefs as well as hunting scenes. Musical drones (repeated sustained tones) will be used to build the children's improvisations around.

## English

Our book Rain Player will transform our thoughts back to the Ancient Mayan civilisation. We will meet a young boy called Pik, who will help us see what a day in the life of a Mayan was really like. This will help not only to write a diary entry, but some clear and vital instructions needed by some very important people in the city, as well as a newspaper report on a very exciting event- the pok-a-tok games. This time though, the games have some very unusual competitors- everything is at stake for young Pik.



## English Key Vocabulary

### Expanded Noun Phrases

An expanded noun phrase is when more description is added to a noun to give the reader more detail.

A derelict, old, country house with broken windows

### Semi colon

A semi colon is used to mark a break between two main clauses of equal importance. A semi colon works better than a full stop, if there is a link between the two clauses.

The engine roared into life; the propellers began to turn. Semi colons can also be used to separate longer items in a list. Soft scones with or without raisins; unsalted butter from organic cows; fresh strawberries picked that day and a small knife.

Semi colons can also be used in place of a conjunction.

The ground was muddy, however the children loved to play in it.

The ground was muddy; the children loved to play in it.

### Direct and reported speech

Direct speech is when the exact words that have been spoken by a person are written inside inverted commas. E.g. "I'm pleased to have raised so much money!" said Captain Tom. When reported speech is used, the speech is recorded in the past tense, often using the word 'that' and does not use inverted commas. E.g. Captain Tom said that he was pleased to have raised so much money.

## Maths Key Information

Initially, we will be exploring fractions, decimals and percentages. We will be finding out what percentages are and then throughout the unit, we will link them to equivalent fractions and decimals.

Then, we will move onto measurement specifically looking at length, mass and capacity. This unit will enable pupils to convert between different units of metric measure. Pupils will be applying their prior knowledge of multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000 in order to convert between measurements.

## Science

Following on from animal life cycles, this term we will be exploring the fascinating world of plant reproduction and their life cycles. including the asexual reproduction of plants from bulbs, tubers and runners.

Later in the term, we will turn our attention to reversible changes and will explore some causal relationships found when experimenting with sieving, filtering and evaporating - what is in that mystery substance?