



Year 6 Summer Term 2

Hola Mexico!

History: Ancient Mayan Civilisation



### Key Vocabulary

<b>Chichen Itsa</b>	A ruined ancient Maya city thought to have been a religious, military, political, and commercial centre that at its peak would have been home to 35,000 people.
<b>Civilisation</b>	A group of people with their own languages
<b>Maya</b>	An ancient civilisation of people who lived in an area that used to be known as Mesoamerica.
<b>Noble class</b>	The highest social class in pre-modern societies
<b>Ritual</b>	A ceremony or series of acts that is always
<b>Society</b>	A community or group of people having common traditions, institutions, and interests



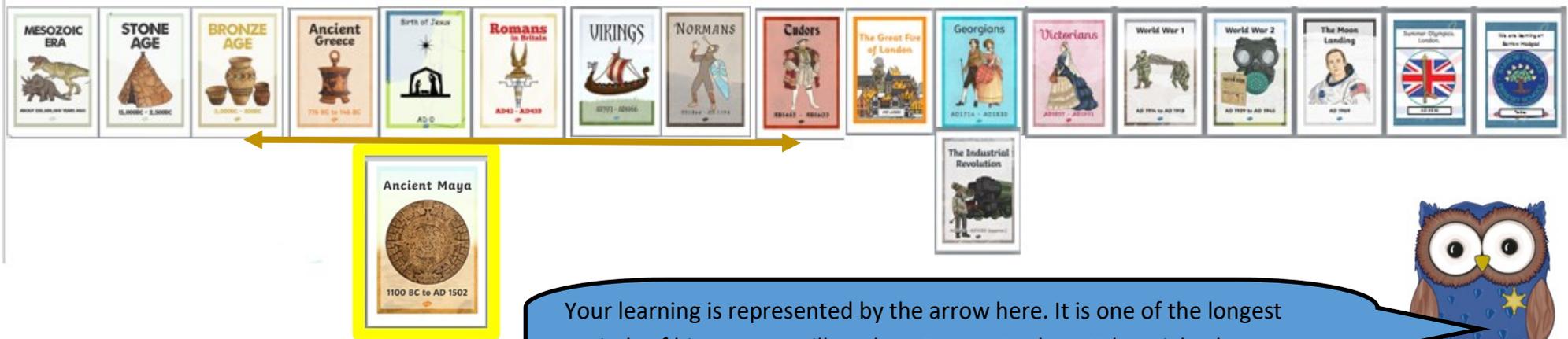
This half term, our Big Question is...

Who were the ancient Mayans and why were they important?

### Key Facts

<b>Where have the remains of the <b>Mayan civilisation</b> been discovered?</b>	There are hundreds of Mayan ruins throughout Mexico, Belize, Honduras and Guatemala.
<b>When do the remains of the <b>Mayan civilisation</b> date from?</b>	Archaeologists and historians believe that Mayan civilisations were living as early as 1500 BC. One of the most famous sites, Chichen Itza, was lived in from 600 A.D. to the 1200s.
<b>How was <b>Mayan Society</b> organised?</b>	Mayan society was formed of a number of city states each with their own ruler and these would have had rural areas surrounding them. At the top of Mayan society was the King and Royal family who were believed to be closely linked to the gods. They were surrounded by an elite "upper class" of scribes, priests and <b>nobles</b> .
<b>What did ancient <b>Mayan</b> people believe in?</b>	Religion was an important part of Mayan society. Public festivals related to special dates on the Maya calendar or important occasions. Before a ritual or festival, people would go without certain food or pierce their tongues, lips, cheeks or ears to offer a sacrifice of blood.
<b>What was it like to be a person in ancient <b>Mayan</b> society?</b>	Adults worked as farmers, warriors, hunters, builders, teachers and many other things. Children from <b>noble</b> families could learn maths, science, writing and astronomy, while poorer children were taught their parents' jobs.
<b>What were the major achievements of the <b>Mayan</b> civilisation?</b>	Mayan people developed the science of astronomy, calendar systems, and hieroglyphic writing. They created elaborate ceremonial architecture, such as pyramids, temples, palaces, and observatories, without metal tools. The Maya were skilled weavers and potters.
<b>Why did the ancient <b>Mayan</b> civilisation go into decline?</b>	We don't really know. Historians have suggested several possibilities including overpopulation, environmental damage, war, shifting trade routes and drought.

## Where does it fit in to the big story?



Your learning is represented by the arrow here. It is one of the longest periods of history you will study at Barrow Hedges. Why might that mean we expect to see a lot of changes happen during our theme?



Key Dates
<b>925 AD</b>
The city-state of Chichen Itza becomes the most powerful city-state in the region. It will rule for the next two hundred years.

What do we already know?
So far...
You have learned how Britain has been influenced by other societies and cultures throughout history.
You have used artefacts and sources to find out about different times in the past.
You have learned an overview of important parts of the history of

