

# Theme: The Ancient Maya

Date: Autumn 2023

## History

### The Ancient Maya

This term we will be using an investigative approach to discovering the fascinating Ancient Maya. We are focussing our learning on the civilization from around 1000 years ago. Children will answer questions about how the Maya grew, became important, how they lived and why they sacrificed. Children will also look current issues like fair trade.

## Science

We will be looking at electrical circuits and designing and making our own different circuits to test.

## D.T

Electrical systems – applying our science knowledge

## Maths

Exploring the Mayan calendar system and comparing it to our own.  
Understanding the Mayan base 20 system.

## Art

Drawing – Make your voice heard. We will use the art of Ancient Maya as inspiration for our own work.

## Music

We will embark on a musical journey through the solar system, exploring how our universe inspired some composers. We will also learn a song and compose musical pieces linked to space.

## English

**An exploration of historical fiction with a focus on the ancient Maya.**

‘Middleworld’ by V&P Voelkel is our class text for the term.

We will also be looking at ‘The Rain Player’ by David Winiewski to explore traditional Mayan tales.

Setting descriptions using the books above as models.

Information texts – children will research their own information about the Ancient Maya.

Poetry – using ‘The Rain Player’ and ‘Boasts and Lies’ by Jackie Wills as a stimulus.

Diaries in role – as Max or Lola.

Explanation texts – explaining some of the potentially gruesome rituals of the ancient Maya.

## Recommended reads

Fiction – ‘Time Riders: The Mayan Prophecy’ by Alex Scarrow.

Non-fiction – ‘Aztecs, Incas and Mayans for children’, Baby Professor

## PSHE (Jigsaw)

Being me in our world  
Celebrating differences.

## Religious education

Buddhism - Is it possible for everyone to be happy?

## Maths–

Number and place value  
All four operations – formal calculations.  
Measures.  
Algebra and problem solving.  
Open ended investigations.  
Fractions, decimals, percentages.  
Ratio.  
Geometry.  
Statistics.

## Science

**To understand movement, forces and magnets**

Forces and Electricity

**Investigative Science:**

We will be planning and conducting our own experiments: designing fair tests, making predictions, observing and measuring, using tables/ graphs to present results, reaching conclusions.

## Computing

**E-safety** – rules for using technology in a safe and private way.

**Communication** – learning about the internet and data packages.

## MFL

**French:** We will be learning vocabulary and phrases relating to the High Street and comparing English towns to French towns.

## PE

**Tuesday afternoon** – football

**Thursday afternoon** – outdoor education  
Children MUST have PE kits in school, including footwear, and a warm jumper in winter.