



Lowerhouse Junior School History Overview Sheet



Year 5 – What was the consequence of drought for the Ancient Mayan Civilisation?



Rationale: Know about the impact that one of the following ancient societies had on the world: the Mayan civilisation; the Islamic civilisation; or the Benin Know why they were considered an advanced society in relation to that period of time in Europe

Substantive Knowledge:

- Know about the impact that the Mayan civilisation has had on the world
- Know why they are considered an advanced society relative to that period of time in Europe
- Know what was happening in Britain when the Maya were at their most powerful
- Know how different the Maya and the Egyptian pyramids were
- Know how the Mayan belief in Gods created a culture of sacrifice
- Understand how the pok-ta-pok Mayan game could be described as the earliest football match
- Understand why the Mayan civilisation died out

Overview:

Lesson 1: **Artefact Lesson** – Why did the Mayans build underground cisterns called chultuns?
Lesson 2: To learn about the key features of the Maya civilization and its significance.
Lesson 3: Understand how the Maya adapted to their environment and the role of natural resources
Lesson 4: Understand the impact of drought on the Maya civilization and the challenges they faced
Lesson 5: Evaluate how drought may have contributed to the decline of the Maya.
Lesson 6: The Legacy of the Maya and Its Influence Today

Key Vocabulary

Chichen Itza - The most well-known Mayan pyramid
Itzamna - The main god of the Maya, Itzamna was the god of fire who created the Earth
Codices - Books, made of soft bark and folded like a fan, created by the Maya
Ahau or ahaw - The main king or lord of a Mayan city-state
Batab - A lesser lord, usually ruling over a small town
Kukulcan - The serpent god of the Maya. One of the primary gods, especially to the Itza peoples of Chichen Itza

Key Knowledge

Know about the Maya and what they gave society

Know what was happening in Britain when the Maya were at their most powerful
Know how different the Mayan and the Egyptian pyramids were
Know how the Mayan belief in Gods created a culture of sacrifice
Understand how the pok-ta-pok Mayan game could be described as the earliest football match
Understand why the Mayan civilisation died out

Assessment/Key Skills

Most Children will: • Explain different ritual elements of the ancient Maya religion and describe some of the main gods in greater detail. • Read and write larger numbers, combining some syllabograms to create glyph blocks and write some words. • Research and provide some of their own ideas about the significance of corn and chocolate