



Year 6

Ancient Civilisations—Ancient Mayans—2000BC—1502AD



Sticky Knowledge

- Know when and where the Maya civilisation began
- Know that the Mayan people developed a writing system made up of 800 symbols called *Glyphs*
- Know that Mayan people were advanced Mathematicians and Astronomers that developed the calendar
- Know that Mayan people calculated in Base 20 and used the digit 0
- Know that Mayan people build elaborate cities with temples, pyramids and roads and that religion was important to them

400s		•	••
20s	•	•	••
1s	•••	••••	—
	33	429	5125

0	•	••	•••	••••	—	••
7	••	•••	••••	••	•••	••••
14	•••	••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••

Key Events

2000 BC	The Maya civilisation comes into being in Central America.
300 BC	Cities, such as El Mirador, become large and powerful.
AD 900	Cities in the rainforest are abandoned due to an extensive drought . People move north to the highlands of Guatemala and the Yucatán.
AD 1000	Cities like Chichén Itzá (which has two temple pyramids) are still thriving.
AD 1500s	The Spanish arrive and set out to conquer the Maya. They destroy their books and Maya cities fall to ruin.
AD 1839	American explorer and writer, John Lloyd Stephens, and British artist, Frederick Catherwood explore Copán and extensively document what they find, reigniting interest in the Maya civilisation . They go on to document other Maya cities, including Chichén Itzá.
AD 2014	The cities of Lagunita and Tamchén are rediscovered.

Key Vocabulary

Artefact - An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.

Calendar - A printed table showing all the days, weeks, and months of the year.

Civilisation - Human society which is organised.

Dynasty - A series of rulers or leaders who are all from the same family, or a period when a country is ruled by them.

Empire - A group of countries ruled by a single person, government, or country.

Hieroglyphics - A system of writing using pictures not words.

Kingdom - A place ruled by a king, queen or important person

Maize - Maize, also known as corn, is a cereal grain

Temple - A building used for the worship of a god or gods in some religions.

Tomb - A large stone structure or underground room where someone, especially an important person, is buried.

Worship - To have or show a strong feeling of respect or admiration to God or gods.



Year 6

Ancient Civilisations Stone Age—Bronze Age—Iron Age

15000BC—43AD



Sticky Knowledge

- The Stone Age is the earliest known primitive human culture
- In the mid- Stone Age, people began to settle in communities and develop agriculture and farming
- The Stone Age people built Stonehenge - a famous prehistoric monument in Southern England
- In the Bronze Age, bronze replaced stone as the preferred material for tools and weapons
- In the Iron Age, iron replaced bronze as the preferred material for making tools and farming developed even more
- The Iron Age is closely linked to the Roman culture in Britain



Stonehenge - Southern England



Iron sickles

Key Vocabulary

The Stone Age

cave paintings	Artwork in caves dating back to the Ice Age.
jewellery	Late Stone Age people made it from shells, teeth and bones.
woolly mammoth	A now extinct animal roaming earth during the Ice Age.
nomadic	Early Stone Age people followed food sources and travelled.
Skara Brae	A stone-built Neolithic settlement in Scotland.

The Bronze Age

foundry	A place of work where metal castings are made.
jewellery	Wearing bronze items was a way to show how rich you were.
Stonehenge	A mysterious set of enormous stones built 3000 B.C. - 1500 B.C.
roundhouses	A circular house with a conical roof and wattle and daub walls.
weapons	Combining copper and tin to make hard weapons and armour.

The Iron Age

Celts	NW Europeans who used iron from 600 B.C. - 43 A.D.
hillforts	Small towns built on a hilltop surrounded by banks of soil and wooden walls to keep out enemies.
smithing	Blacksmiths would heat iron and create weapons / tools.
weapons	Swords, daggers and arrowheads were made of iron.





- To know where the Ancient Egypt civilisation was situated and when
- To know about life in Ancient Egypt
- To know that Ancient Egypt was a powerful and wealthy agricultural civilisation ruled by Kings and Queens called Pharaohs
- To know that Egyptians worshipped many Gods and believed in never ending life
- To know that the wealthy Egyptians were mummified to preserve the body for the afterlife

canopic jar	Jars with intestines, stomach, lungs and liver - all of which were thought to be needed in the afterlife.
cartouche	An oval containing hieroglyphics with a horizontal line underneath indicating a royal name.
hieroglyphics	A writing system where picture symbols stood for meanings or sounds. It meant 'sacred carving'.
irrigation	Using the Nile, Egyptians would use annual flooding to channel water to dry areas to help crops grow.
mummy	A body prepared for burial according to ancient Egyptian practice.
sarcophagus	A stone coffin adorned with a sculpture or inscription containing a mummy.
scarab	The use of the common scarab beetle was often used as a symbol for rebirth.
tomb	A chamber or vault to protect the dead, the most elaborate built within pyramids or underground.
papyrus	A type of plant grown in abundance in ancient Egypt turned into a paper-like material for writing.
pyramids	Over 130 giant pyramids were created as tombs for pharaohs, mostly built west of the River Nile.

Four ancient Egyptian bronze canopic jars are displayed side-by-side. Each jar has a different animal head: the first has a human face, the second a ram, the third a dog, and the fourth a falcon. The jars are decorated with hieroglyphs and have a textured, patinated surface.

A horizontal timeline with a vertical axis on the left and a horizontal axis at the top. The horizontal axis is marked with '3500 BC' in red, '0' in black, and 'AD 1500' in blue. Four horizontal bars represent the duration of different civilisations: 'Ancient Egypt' (green bar, from approximately 3500 BC to 300 BC), 'Ancient Rome' (pink bar, from approximately 800 BC to 500 AD), 'Maya Civilisation' (orange bar, from approximately 2000 BC to 1500 AD), and 'Anglo-Saxon Britain' (blue bar, starting at 400 AD and extending to the right with an arrow). The bars are stacked vertically, with 'Ancient Egypt' at the top and 'Anglo-Saxon Britain' at the bottom.