



Mexico and the Mayans Year 5

Essential Knowledge

By the end of this unit children will know...

- Use different sources of research e.g. books, pictures, artefacts, internet to find out about Mexico and the Mayans.
- Describe and understand the similarities and differences between Mexico and the UK.
- Describe and understand the terms HUMAN and PHYSICAL geography.
- Use maps, atlases and globes to name and locate countries and cities of the world.
- Know where to place the Ancient civilization of the Mayans in time.
- Describe the legacy of the Ancient Mayan civilization.

Launch

Visits and experiences:

Hold a Mexico day in school.

Children wear colours of Mexican flag.

Children prepare and taste Mexican food.

Children to learn a Mexican dance.

Explore

Explore the Mayans

Who were the Mayans?

When did they live?

Where did they live?

What did they look like?

Why did they disappear?

Energise

Energising session

Design and make Mayan inspired masks and hats.

Have a fashion show of Mayan designs in front of an invited audience.

Celebrate

Come and Share Afternoon

Invite parents and carers into school for a celebration event (an assembly or exhibition):

Year 5... present 'Our learning on Mexico and the Mayans'

Core Subjects:

Links to theme

English

- Write a historical diary entry— 'day in the life of...'
- Write their own version of a myth or legend.
- Write a newspaper article on Mayan sacrifice.
- Write a travel guide for visiting Mexico.

Mathematics

Money

- Children solve problems involving budgeting and money linked to holidaying in Mexico.

Measurement

- Calculate distances in kilometers.
- Solve problems involving time zones and GMT.

Science

- Investigate how materials are used to keep people cool in a hot country.

Mexico and the Mayans Year 5: Theme Content

Personal Development

Spiritual

Children will have a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the Ancient Mayan world.

Moral

Children will show an interest in investigating, and offering reasoned views about, moral and ethical issues concerning the Ancient Mayans.

Social

Children will communicate and negotiate with others through their collaborative learning in pairs and small groups.

Cultural

Children will be willing to participate in, and respond to, for example, artistic, musical, sporting, mathematical, technological, scientific and cultural learning about Mexico and the Mayans.

Foundation Subjects

History, Geography and Citizenship

History:

- To research the Ancient civilisation of the Mayans (Ad 900).
- To evaluate historical opinions as to why the Mayans 'disappeared.'

Geography:

- Map Skills – Locating cities and countries of the world.
- Map Skills - Identify lines of latitude and longitude.
- Compare the UK and Mexico.

Citizenship:

- To learn about the systems and forms of government in Mexico.

Art and Design and Design Technology

- Design and make a Mayan inspired mask.
- Prepare and cook Mexican food.

Music, Languages and Physical Education

- Compose and perform music to accompany a Mayan ritual.
- Compose and perform their own Mayan dance.

Computing

- Use and search the internet effectively and safely.

Mexico and the Mayans Year 5: Links to National Curriculum Framework

Core Subjects:

English

- Distinguish between statements of fact and opinion.
- Retrieve, record and present information from non-fiction.
- Identify the audience for and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using other similar writing as models for their own.
- Use further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and to guide the reader.

Mathematics

- To solve problems by applying their mathematics to a variety of routine and non-routine problems.
- To break problems into a series of simpler steps.
- Convert between different units of metric measure (e.g. gram and kilogram).
- Solve problems involving converting between units of time.

Science

- Compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity (electrical and thermal), and response to magnets.
- Give reasons, based on evidence from comparative and fair tests, for the particular uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic.

Foundation Subjects

History, Geography and Citizenship

- Study a non-European society that provides a contrast with British history (Mayan civilization AD 900).
- Note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms.
- Understand our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.
- Develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history.
- Use maps, atlases and globes and digital / computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.
- Identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, the Greenwich Meridian and Time zones.
- Describe and understand key aspects of physical and human geography.

Art and Design and Design Technology

- To create sketchbooks to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas.
- To improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials.
- Understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook.
- Select from and use a wider range of materials and components, including ingredients, according to their functional properties and aesthetic qualities.

Music, Languages and Physical Education

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods.
- Improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the internet – related dimensions of music (pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure).
- Perform dances using a range of movement patterns.
- Apply and develop a range of skills and link them to make actions and sequences of movement.

Computing

- Use search technologies effectively, appreciate how results are selected and ranked, and be discerning in evaluating digital content.

Mexico and the Mayans Year 5: Assessment Opportunities/Tasks within Theme

Core Subjects

English

- Children will use persuasive language in their—'Visit Mexico' poster.
- Children will write a diary entry which contains relevant historical information.
- Children will write a myth which is consistent with the Mayan legends.
- Children will write a newspaper article which contains relevant information about Mayan sacrifice.

Mathematics

- Children will identify and obtain necessary information to carry through a task and solve mathematical problems, e.g. recognise information that is important to solving the problem.
- Children will use their knowledge of time zones to work out journey times around the world.

Science

- Children will describe the differences between the properties of different materials.
- Children will use their knowledge of thermal conductors to plan an investigation on materials.

Foundation Subjects

History, Geography and Citizenship

- Children will use documents, printed sources (e.g. archive materials) the Internet, pictures, photographs, music, artefacts, to collect evidence about the past.
- Children give their own reasons why changes may have occurred, backed up by evidence they have researched.
- Children will use the contents and index pages of an atlas to find Mexico and other places quickly.
- Children will use their knowledge of lines of latitude and meridian of longitude to find and locate places.

Art and Design and Design Technology

- Children can explore ideas and collect visual and other information to help to develop their work - Mayan mask.
- Children will demonstrate that they work in a safe and hygienic way with food.

Music, Languages and Physical Education

- Children will create music, which reflects given intentions and uses notations as a support for performance.
- Children are creative and imaginative in composing their own dances.
- The dance created by children will match the mood of the accompanying music.

Computing

Children will demonstrate that their understand how to search the internet safely.