

# The Mayans

## Year Five Knowledge



The Maya were an ancient civilisation in Mesoamerica (Central America) that existed from 2000BC to approximately 1697AD



Religion was very important to the Ancient Maya. They worshipped their kings like they were gods but they also worshipped their ancestors and a range of different gods and goddesses.



The Maya lived in many city states and each city state had its own ruler.



Maya citizens lived in one room houses built from mud and timber. Men were responsible for providing for their families, women would prepare food and clothes



Maya people would eat meat as well as their own grown crops, but maize was their staple food. The cacao bean was used to make a drink for the ruling classes.



The Maya were an advanced civilisation who communicated using their own language (Mayan) and had a written form of communication (glyphs).



Between 800-925AD Chichen Itza became the most powerful city.



1000AD The Maya civilisation begins to decline and leave the cities. In the 1500s, the Spanish begin to colonise here.

# The Anglo Saxons

## Year Five Knowledge



350 AD Anglo-Saxons raid English shores and are beaten back by the Romans.  
410 AD Last Romans leave Britain, leaving the Celts defenseless.  
459AD Anglo-Saxons invade England again, successfully.



The Anglo-Saxons were a group of farmer warriors who lived in Britain. Made up of three tribes who came over from Europe, they were called the Angle, Saxon and Jute tribes.



In 556, seven kingdoms are created across Britain. The seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms were Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Sussex, and Wessex.



King Alfred—King of Wessex 871AD— 899AD.  
Athelstan—First king to unite the English kingdoms in 927AD.  
Guthrum—King of the Vikings in Danelaw.  
King Canute—King of England, Denmark and Norway between 1028AD and 1035AD.  
Edward the Confessor—penultimate Saxon King of England (before Harold II who lost at the Battle of Hastings)



The Anglo-Saxon word for queen was cwen. Archaeologists have found the graves of many high-status women from early Anglo-Saxon England. Aethelflaed was a powerful Anglo-Saxon leader. She was the daughter of Alfred the Great who left her money and land. She also married the most powerful noble of Mercia, Ethelred.



The Saxons had a system called 'weregild', which meant that if you injured someone, you had to pay for the damage. People found guilty of crimes were either executed or punished with fines.



In AD597 the Pope in Rome decided it was time the AngloSaxons in Britain heard about Christianity. He sent a monk called Augustine to persuade the king to become a Christian. Over the next 100 years, many AngloSaxons turned to Christianity and new churches and monasteries were built.



Alfred the Great (849-899) was the most famous of the AngloSaxon kings. Despite overwhelming odds he successfully defended his kingdom, Wessex, against the Vikings. .

# The Vikings

## Year Five Knowledge



The name 'Viking' comes from a language called 'Old Norse' and means 'a pirate raid'. People who went off raiding in ships were said to be 'going Viking'. The first Viking raid recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle was around AD787



The Vikings did not send many ships on their first raids. They made surprise attacks on places like Lindisfarne. There was no English navy to guard the coasts, so it was easy for small groups of Vikings to land on a beach or sail up a river.



The Vikings were pagans, not Christians like most people living in Britain. Christian monasteries in Britain were easy targets for the Vikings. The monks had no weapons and the buildings were filled with valuable treasures.



Not all the Vikings were bloodthirsty warriors. Some came to fight, but others came peacefully, to settle. They were farmers, and kept animals and grew crops. They were skilful at crafting, and made beautiful metalwork and wooden carvings. Vikings sailed the seas trading goods to buy silver, silks, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery to bring back to their homes.



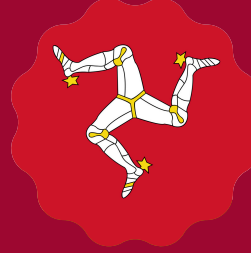
Around 750AD, some Vikings started to explore other places to live and began to settle in Britain where the Anglo Saxons lived.



In 884AD an agreement was signed so that the Vikings could rule over "Danelaw" in the north of England.



The Vikings used symbols called runes. These symbols are made using straight lines because they are easier to carve into wood and stone. Each symbol represents a different sound.



The Vikings were also the first group to ever form a parliament—the Tynwald on the Isle of Man.

# Year Five

## Skills



A Place to Grow



When I talk and write about the past, I include good detail; I put my ideas in context (chronological and scale).



I can use a timeline to sequence local, national and international events as well as historical periods.



I can use historical periods as reference points.



I can describe and make some links between events, situations and changes within and between different periods and societies.



I can describe and suggest some reasons for similarities and differences in society, culture and religion in Britain and the wider world.



I can explain my suggestions when giving reasons for and results of historical events, situations and changes.



I can explain which causes and consequences are the most significant.



I take account of a range of information (such as the author, audience and purpose of a source, where and when it was created) when evaluating its accuracy and usefulness.



I can explain my evaluation of particular pieces of information and particular sources.



I can select, organise and use relevant information to produce structured work, making appropriate use of dates and terms.

