



## 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