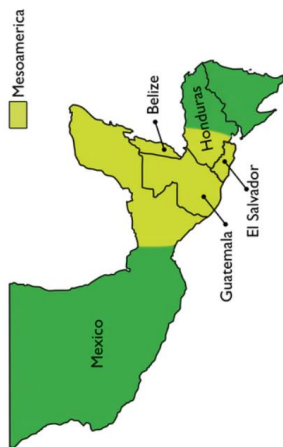


# Mayans Knowledge Organiser

## Who were the Mayans and where did they live?

The ancient Mayans lived in what is now known as southern Mexico and northern Central America including Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, Yucatán Peninsula and El Salvador. Their descendants still live there today, and many of them speak the Mayan languages



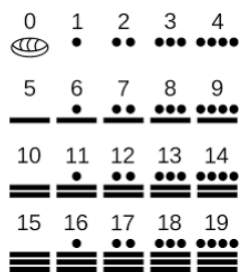
## What was life like for the Ancient Maya?



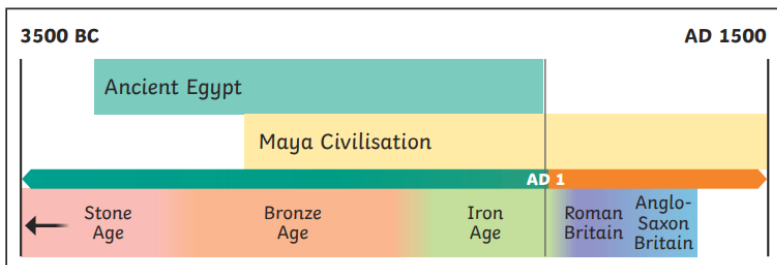
Mayan adults worked as farmers, warriors, hunters, builders, teachers and many other things. Children from noble families could learn maths, science, writing and astronomy, but poorer children were only taught their parents' jobs.

## Mayan Achievements

The Maya were an advanced civilisation who communicated using their own language (Mayan), had a written form of communication (glyphs), developed one of the most advanced complex numerical systems of their time and invented their own calendar, among many other things.



Key vocabulary	
<b>Civilisation</b>	A human society with well developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
<b>Terrain</b>	
<b>Scribes</b>	People trained to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write
<b>Codices</b>	Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.
<b>Maize</b>	Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas.
<b>Cacao beans</b>	Cacao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When they are ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans, which can then be dried, roasted and ground.
<b>Mesoamerica</b>	A historical region and cultural area in North America. It extends from approximately central Mexico through Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica
<b>Sacrifice</b>	An act of slaughtering an animal or person or surrendering a possession as an offering to a deity (ruler or god)
<b>Settlements</b>	a place, typically one which has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community
<b>Rituals</b>	A religious or solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a set order.
<b>City State</b>	a city and its surrounding area which has its own ruler
<b>Hierarchy</b>	a system that ranks things, often in order of power or importance.



## What caused the Maya to disappear?



Scholars have suggested a number of potential reasons for the downfall of Maya civilization in the southern lowlands, including overpopulation, environmental degradation, warfare, shifting trade routes and extended drought. ... What is certain is that the Mayans didn't disappear in the aftermath of the collapse.