

What we already know:	Subject: History	Unit: The Maya Civilisation	Year: 6
•Maya is considered an ancient civilisation starting around 2600 BCE •Maya was around the same time as Ancient Egypt •Civilisations travelled and traded with other civilisations •Christopher Columbus landed in Central America in 1492, destroying native civilisations, stealing precious items and enslaving communities of Central America. We also know these Geographical facts: •The names of countries in North and South America. •The climate, bio-diversity of the rainforest, vegetation belts around the Tropic of Cancer. •The effect and location of volcanoes on human and physical geography.	Vocabulary		
	Tier 1 Astronomy - the branch of science that deals with celestial objects, space, and the physical universe as a whole. Pyramid - a monumental structure with a square or triangular base and sloping sides that meet in a point at the top. Used as a temple. Natural resources -things such as minerals, forests, coal, etc. that exist in a place and can be used by people Sacrifice- to give up something that is valuable to you in order to help another person/ please a god. 	Tier 2 Indigenous people - used to refer to, or relating to, the people who originally lived in a place, rather than people who moved there from somewhere else. Civilisation - human society with its well developed social organisations, or the culture and way of life of a society or country at a particular period in time. 	Tier 3 Polytheist - someone who believes in many gods Hieroglyphics -pictures or symbols that represent words. Tzolk'in - a religious calendar and The Haab' - a solar calendar. 
What's next? This is the last history topic that we will cover at St Lukes. It's time to get excited about the history you will learn at Secondary School! You'll be using all the knowledge and skills you have learned in your history lessons at St Lukes to build your understanding of British, local and world history. Enjoy it!			

Timeline													
Pre-historic	Ancient History			Modern History							Present		
		Ancient Egypt 3100 BC – 332 BC											
		Ancient Greece 1200 BC BC – 146 BC											
		Maya Civilisation 1800 BC – AD 1500											
					Vikings AD 793 -AD 1066								
Dinosaurs extinct 65,000,000 BC	Stone Age 3,500 BC – 2,500 BC	Bronze Age 2,500 BC – 800 BC	Iron Age 800 BC – AD43	Romans in Britain 43AD – 410AD	Anglo Saxons 410 AD - 1066	Great Fire of London 1666	Victorian Era 1837-1901	WW2 1939 - 1945	Queen Elizabeth II Coronation 1953	1 st Moon Landing 1969	We were born. 2011/12	King Charles Coronation 2023	Year 6 2023/2024

Significant people/events	Beliefs	Society & Government
• John Stephens and Fred Catherwood were Archaeologists. • They visited Copan in 1839 and discovered ruins of an ancient civilisations. • They catalogued their discoveries through diaries and drawings. • They rediscovered the lost ancient Maya civilisation. (250 – 900AD) 	• Maya were polytheist. • They had a god for every aspect of life, e.g. birth, farming, thunder and ball games. • Maya made sacrifices to please Gods. • Maya believed that a God could punish them by sending a drought, flood or famine. • Maya believed in the afterlife where there was another social hierarchy. If you were sacrificed, you entered the afterlife at the top of the hierarchy • Mayans built two types of pyramids to worship Gods. • A sacrificial pyramid was used by priests to make sacrifices to the Gods. • Sacred pyramids were built to worship Gods. • Humans could not touch the sacred pyramids. • Sacred pyramids were carved with images of Gods and had 365 steps – one for each day of the year. • Mayan priests sacrificed children to request rain from the Gods. They threw the children into cenotes (the entrance to the underworld). 	• Maya society was a caste system. Children were born into the social hierarchy and had to stay within it. • Nobles – Wealthy rulers. Led government, one noble family became the king in each city. • Commoners - artisans, skilled craftsmen, merchants and servants. • Peasants – majority of society. Poor and had physical jobs such as farm hands. • Slaves – Slaves were bought and sold and all levels of society could own a slave. Slaves were sacrificed when their owners died so that they were able to serve them in the afterlife.  The classification of the society of Maya classes • All Mayan settlements had ball courts for a game named Pitz. • Spanish explorers observed the game in the 1500s – link to Christopher Columbus. • Teams instantly won by getting the ball through the stone hole. • The losing team were sacrificed by cutting off their heads. • This was to ensure the continuation of day and night. 