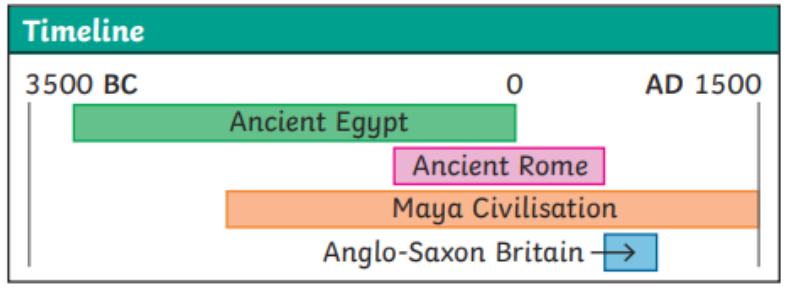
The Mayans

What should we already know?

- Where the Mayan Civilisation falls on a historical timeline
- Ancient Egypt era started before Maya Civilisation and Ancient Greeks started after

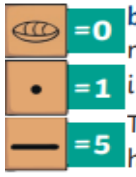


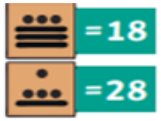
Who are the Mayans?

- The Mayans community started around 2000BC. Their civilization was the biggest between the years of 420 AD and 900 AD.
- Maya people civilization developed in the south-east area of Mesoamerica (modern day Mexico).
- They developed their own calendars, numbers and writing system.
- They worshipped many deities
- Due to the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century, their ancient cities fell to ruin.

Writing and Number System

- Writing system consisted of over 800 symbols called glyphs
- These were carved into stone buildings and monuments, and painted on pottery. Maya scribes also wrote books called codices.
- The Maya developed a complex number system that was advanced for their time.
- The Maya people used just three symbols in their number system. (thought to represent how they began to count ie with pebbles and sticks.





Food

Maize was a very important crop that formed up to 80% of the Maya people's diets. They believed that the first humans were made from maize dough by the gods.

The Maya made a bitter chocolatey drink from cacao beans that was enjoyed by the rich and used for medicines and in ceremonies.

The beans were highly valued and even used as a form of money.

Mayan Civilization

-The Maya civilisation began long ago in a place called 'Mesoamerica'. An area made up of Mexico and part of Central America.

-The Maya built amazing cities like Tikal (which they called 'Yax Mutal') and Palenque.

-They were experts at reading the stars and even built their cities as a map of the sky! They were also inspired by the creatures of the forest and shared many legends about animals, plants and nature spirits.

Mayan Gods

-Gods were involved in every aspect of the life of the Maya

-They controlled the weather, harvest, they dictated who you married, presided over every birth and were present at one's death.

VOCABULARY	
Maya	The collective noun for the Mayan people.
Mesoamerica	The region in which the Maya lived, spanning over Mexico and parts of Southern America.
Pyramid	A 3D man-made structure that is built through large cuboids of rock piled upon one another to form a triangular shape.
Deity	A synonym for god.
Chichen Itza	One of the best-preserved examples of a Mayan city.
Legend	A story told that has a religious origin usually comprising of a mortal vs immortal being.
Hieroglyph	A symbol that has a worded meaning, read like our graphemes.
Maize	Corn – a major resource of food for Mayan people. Part of their religious culture too.
Sacrifice	A slaughtering of an animal or human as an offering to please the gods.