



# KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



## The Ancient Maya



### Timeline

1100BC	800BC	700BC	400BC	300BC	100BC	450AD	683AD	800AD	1502AD
First people settle in the Mayan regions.	First evidence of farming in the region.	Mayan writing and culture emerge.	First Mayan solar calendars,	The Mayan Civilization truly begins. Nobles and kings rule.	The first step pyramids are built.	The city state of Tikal dominates the region. The height of Maya civilization.	Pakal The Great (A famous Mayan Ruler) dies. He is buried in a fabulous temple.	The cities of the Maya are abandoned by this time. Jungles begin to reclaim the buildings. The reasons for societal collapse are complex and varied.	The first Europeans to come to the land of the Maya arrive. However, the civilization is long disappeared. However a newer civilization with a different language, culture and religion, the Aztec, had taken hold by this point.

### Key Vocabulary

<b>Maya</b>	An ethnic group of people who still live in Mexico to this day.
<b>The Ancient Maya</b>	The ancestors of the modern Maya who cre-
<b>Temple</b>	An area dedicated to worship of a god or
<b>Pok-a-tok</b>	A brutal full contact ball game enjoyed by the ancient Maya.
<b>Pre-Colonial</b>	The period of time in the Americas before Europeans explored, invaded or took over.
<b>Yucatan Peninsula</b>	The area of Mexico where the ancient Maya
<b>Glyphs</b>	A form of writing where words, sounds and

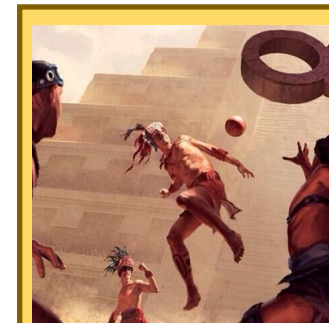


### Key Facts



- The ancient Maya were a people who lived in a part of Mexico long before Europeans came to the Americas.
- Their empire existed at the same time as the Romans (and by extension the life of Jesus) however neither group had knowledge of one another.
- They created beautiful stone cities which were later lost and then rediscovered.
- The ancient Maya practiced human sacrifice!

### Pok-A-Tok



Pok-A-Tok was a favoured sport of the Maya. It also took on religious significance and was sometimes played instead of fighting a war with another city. On some occasions, players on the losing team could be executed and sacrificed to the gods!