Year 6 Knowledge Organiser
Raiders of the lost Mayans

What I should already know.

- South America is a continent.
- The climate of South America is different to that of the UK.
- Human and physical geographical features of a region in South America.
- Other civilisations include the Egyptians and the Greeks.
- What erosion is and what impact it can have on land.
- The chronology of British history.

BC (Before Christ)	AD (Anno Domini)																				
	0				500 AD					1000 AD					1500 AD						2000 AD
Century	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st
Periods in British History	Romans in Britain 55BC – 410AD				Saxon and Viking Britain 410AD – 1066AD					Medieval Britain 1066AD – 1485AD						Tudor Britain 1485AD – 1603AD	Stuart Britain 1603AD – 1714AD	Georgian Britain 1714AD – 1837AD	Victorian Britain 1837AD – 1901AD	Living history	

What will I know by the end of the unit?

Key Skills

Children can locate the Classic Mayan period on a timeline and make comparisons to British history.
Children can describe characteristic features of the Mayan Civilization, and identify changes within and across the time period.
Explain an event with reference to abstract ideas such as long and short-term causes/results or events building up.
They can see causes might be connected in some way; one cause might be linked to another making the event much more likely to happen.
Children are able to describe and explain ways of life at different levels of society and understand that people would have different outlooks on life depending on their social standing.
Children start to think of reasons why a source may be unreliable.
They select and organise information to produce structured work, making appropriate use of dates and terms.

Timeline

c. AD 250: By this stage, the Mayan had many established cities. They had many monuments, pyramids and devised a writing and maths

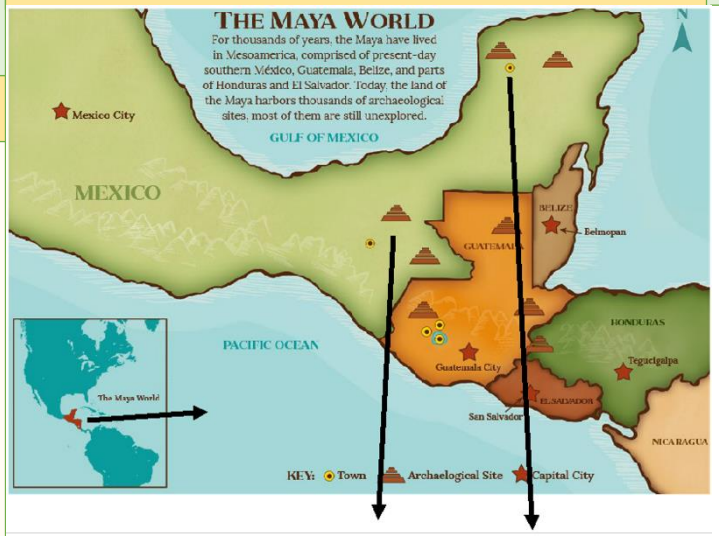
c. AD 600: The **Mayan** population exceeded 5,000,000 people. Excessive farming and **deforestation** due to overflow from the cities were commonplace and this led to land becoming less **fertile**.

c. AD 840: The quality of the fields is poor, and this combined with land **erosion,** leads to a **drought**.

c. AD 900: Many **Mayan** cities are deserted due to **deforestation, drought** and war.

Today…there are still 7 million **indigenous Mayan** people living in Central America.

Key Knowledge



- Famous Mayan cities include Palenque and Chichen Itza, which are found in Mexico.
- Mayan cities had similar layouts to each other. They would have a palace for the ruler, a plaza for the marketplaces and temples, in the form of pyramids.
- Mayan cities were often found near trade routes and good farmland.
- Mayans were polytheists, believing in many nature gods or deities.
- Priests were considered the most important people in the Mayan culture. Warriors, craftsmen and traders were next in the hierarchy. Farmers, workers and slaves were at the bottom of the hierarchy.
- Mayan merchants traded many goods including salt, cotton, honey and jade.
- The Mayan calendar (Tzolkin) consisted of 260 days and 13 months.
- The demise of the Mayan civilization came about because of a mixture of deforestation, land erosion and drought.

Key Vocabulary

archaeologist	Someone who studies the past by exploring old remains.
architecture	The art of planning, designing and constructing buildings.
Chichen Itza	A village in Yucatán state in Mexico: site of important **Mayan** ruins. A UNESCO World Heritage Site.
chronology	The order of events in time.
circa	Latin meaning 'around'. c. 800 BC means around 800 BC.
civilisation	A human **society** with its own social organisation and **culture**.
climate	The general weather conditions that are typical of a place.
continent	A very large area of land that consists of many **countries**. South America is a **continent**.
culture	Activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation.
deforestation	If an area is deforested, all the trees there are cut down.
deities	A god or goddess.
demise	Something or someone is their end or death.
drought	A long period of time during which no rain falls.
economy	The wealth that a **society** or country gets from business and industry.
erosion	The gradual destruction and removal of rock or soil.
fertile	Rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants.
hierarchy	A system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance, for example in **society.**
indigenous	People or things belong to the country in which they are found.
Mayan	Of, relating to, or characteristic of the Maya or any of their languages.
merchant	A person who buys or sells goods in large quantities
	Central America - the countries consist of Mexico, Guatemala, El.
Mesoamerica	Salvador, and Belize; and the western sections of Honduras and Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica.
plaza	An open square in a city.
polytheists	The worship of or belief in more than one god.
society	People in general, thought of as a large organised group.
trade	The activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services.