

Spring Year 6 – RAIDERS OF THE LOST MAYA

Herne Junior School

Description/Theme Intent:

The children will be learning about the ancient Maya civilisation. This will include looking closely at: social structure, religion, farming and food, religious temples, the number system, star-gazing and the calendar. During the theme, the children will be able to make a comparison between this civilisation and what was occurring in Britain at the same time. The children will gain an understanding of the terms 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry'.

Curriculum Hook:

Children will participate in a 'Timeline Treasure Hunt', placing key historical events on a timeline. This will give the children a greater understanding of when civilisations flourished in comparison to one another. Children will also design and make delicious Maya-styled flatbreads as a way of introducing the topic.

Quality Text / Whole Class Reader:

The Curse of the Maya by Johnny Pearce and Andy Loneragan
A range of non-fiction Maya reference books



Links to being a British and Global Citizen:

While studying the hierarchal Maya society, the children will compare it with the British Value of democracy and how this reflected in British culture today.

Links to RRR, SMSC and HARMONY:

The children will learn about 'Careers' and 'Friendships and Staying Safe'. This will make an interesting comparison to the social structure and judicial system used by the Maya society. They will be looking in depth at a culture (SMSC) and comparing it to their own.

Life Long Learning Skills:

- **Independence:** Children will form their own opinions about the decline of the Maya Civilisation through their research.
- **Collaboration:** Children will collaborate through researching, presenting and sharing aspects of the Maya culture.

Outcome/Impact: The children will produce a homework project on an aspect of the Maya civilisation to present to the rest of the class. They will also produce a high-quality topic book showcasing all of their work from the term.

As readers, writers and performers, we will:

- write as historians using a variety of historic sources to argue why the Maya civilisation declined.
- create their own Maya God and describe a meeting with this angered God.
- write an explanatory text, describing a ceremony needed to appease their God.
- develop their close reading skills to produce a picture of a Mayan God based on a range of descriptions. Then, use their research into the Mayan social structure to choose a suitable role for their Maya God.

As mathematicians, we will:

- studying number and focusing in on decimals, to include; ordering; rounding; and multiplying by 10, 100 and 1000.
- learn about percentages, this will include; comparing them to decimals and fractions; working out percentage of amounts; and solving percentage problems.
- practice mathematical algebra.
- continue our studies in measurement, which will include; converting measures; solving perimeter, area and volume problems.
- study different elements of ratio, which will include; problem solving; values found; using multiplication & division; shapes and scale factor; unequal sharing and grouping.

As scientists, we will:

- revise simple circuits.
- use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.
- compare and give reasons for variations in how components function.
- apply knowledge of circuits to real-life situations.
- work with electricity safely.

As historians, we will:

- learn about the ancient Maya civilisation. This will include looking closely at: social structure, religion, farming and food, religious temples, the number system, star-gazing and the calendar.
- be able to make a comparison between this civilisation and what was occurring in Britain at the same time.
- gain an understanding of the terms 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry' as well as investigating primary and secondary historical sources. The use of these sources will enable us to decide upon possible reasons for the decline of the Maya civilisation.

Celebrating our local community

- Through reading "The Curse of the Maya" written by local authors Johnny Pearce and Andy Loeragan.