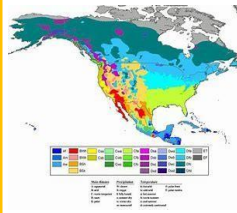


Key vocabulary and terms

Climate zone - An area that has its own distinct climate and their own type of vegetation and wildlife. (**Temperate** - Mild temperatures and moderate rainfall. **Tropical** - Warm temperatures and lots of rain. **Arid** - Hot temperatures and little rain.)



Physical Geography - The study of the natural features of the Earth's surface, especially in its current aspects, including land formation, climate, currents.



Human Geography - the study of humans, their living standards, and how their activities affect the planet Earth. Examples are things like houses, roads and bridges. They have been built by people.



Pakal the Great – The longest serving Maya ruler



Chichen Itza - The most powerful city-state during the start of the Post-classic period, Chichen Itza is a very popular tourist attraction today.



City-state - An independent government where a large city rules the surrounding area.



Pyramid - A large monument with four sides that tapers at the top. The Maya build step pyramids with flat tops. At the top they built a temple to their gods.



Tikal - One of the most powerful city-states during the Classic Period (the golden age of the Maya civilisation running from 250 AD to 900 AD).



Useful websites:

www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/mayans/

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw

www.ducksters.com/history/aztec-maya-inca

North America and the Maya Civilisation

Key learning:

To be taught about...

- The countries located across the North American continent, including the 50 US states.
- The varying climate zones across North America and how they compare with the climates we experience.
- The human and physical geography of North America and the difference between the two.
- Influential North American individuals throughout history.
- Maya civilisation and how it contrasted with contemporary developments at the time.
- Logograms and hieroglyphs.
- The Maya calendars and their number systems.
- The organization of Maya cities and architecture.
- Trade, religion, technology, everyday life and farming. We will be looking at each of these comparatively in a wider world context.
- The geography of the Maya civilisation. Maya lived in northern Central America (modern day Southern Mexico). We will study their use of rainforests and how they dealt with living in high-risk earthquake and volcanic areas.
- The geographical and economical challenges the remains of the Maya civilization face today (yes, there are still Mayan people living in parts of America and Mexico today!).

Did you know?
Each of the 31 Maya groups still living throughout Central America speaks a different mutually unintelligible language – although all belong to the same Mayan language family!



Did you know?
Maya medicine was quite advanced for the time – they even stitched wounds together with human hair!