

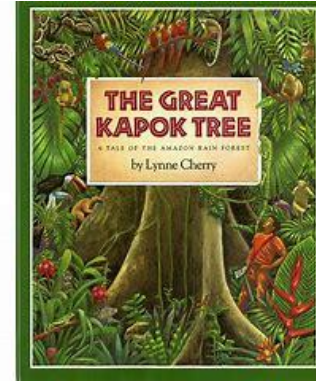


Autumn Term: Year 5 Knowledge Organiser: Maya and Aztecs

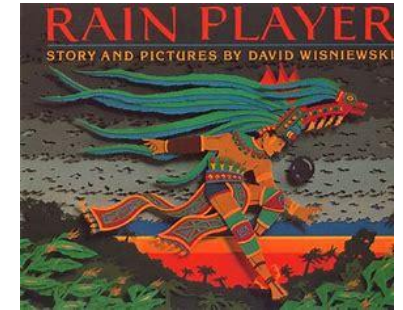
Key Vocabulary

The Maya and Aztecs

Civilisation	A human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and arts are considered important.
Mesoamerica	Central America, the countries consist of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Belize and the western sections of Honduras and Nicaragua and northern Costa Rica
Empire	An empire is the collective name for a group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country.
Fredrick Catherwood	An English artist, architect and explorer, best remembered for his detailed drawings of the ruins of the Maya civilization.
Hernán Cortés	Was a Spanish conquistador who led an expedition that caused the fall of the Aztec Empire
Spanish Conquest	The period from the late 15th to the 17th century when Spain expanded its dominion over the Americas and other territories
governed hierarchy	Controlled or ruled A way of organizing things or people in a ranked order, like a pyramid, where some are at the top with more importance and others are below, with decreasing importance
Conquistador	Spanish and Portuguese colonizers who explored, traded with and colonized parts of the Americas, Africa, Oceania and Asia during the Age of Discovery.
colonization	When one country takes control of another land or region far away from its own borders. This new land is then called a colony.



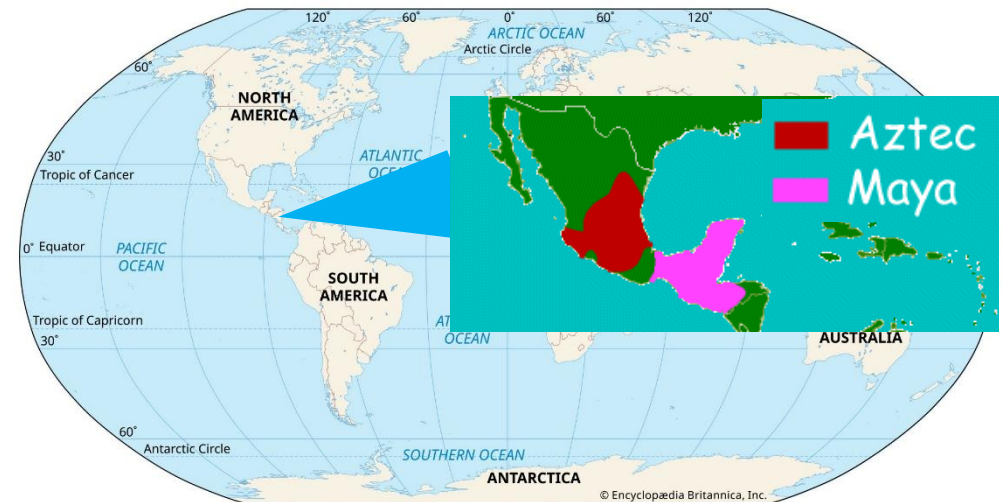
These are some of the books we will be focusing on for our literacy work – 'The Great Kapok Tree' and 'The Rainplayer'.



Where did the Maya and Aztecs live?

The Maya civilisation occupied a wide territory that included southeastern Mexico and northern Central America.

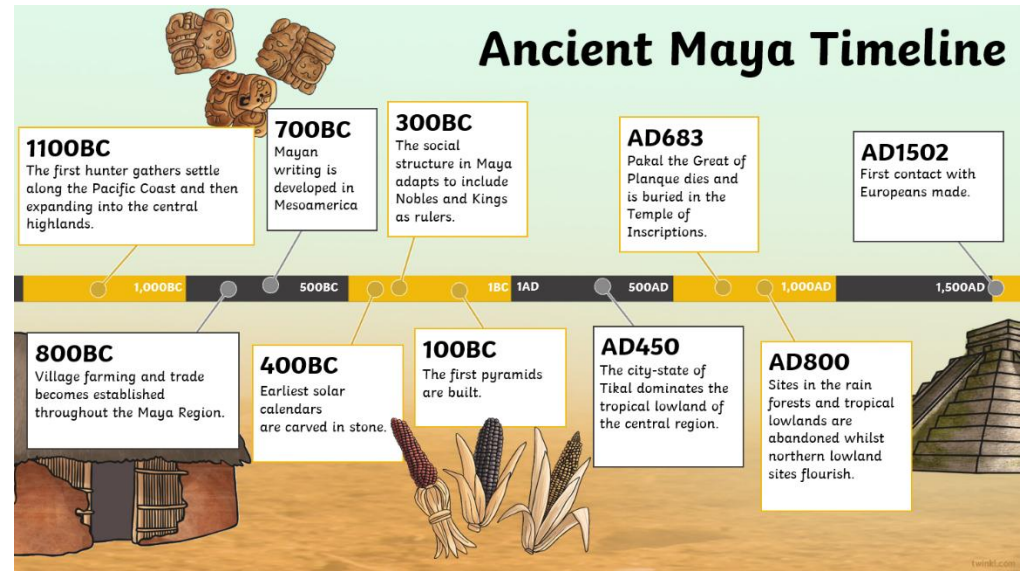
This area included the entire Yucatán Peninsula and all of the territory now in the modern countries of Guatemala and Belize, as well as the western portions of Honduras and El Salvador. The Aztecs lived in central Mexico, primarily in and around the Valley of Mexico. Their capital, Tenochtitlan, was located on an island in Lake Texcoco, which is now the site of Mexico City.



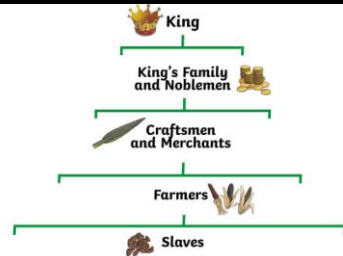
The fall of the Aztecs and Maya is linked to the Spanish Conquest, which was led by Hernan Cortes.



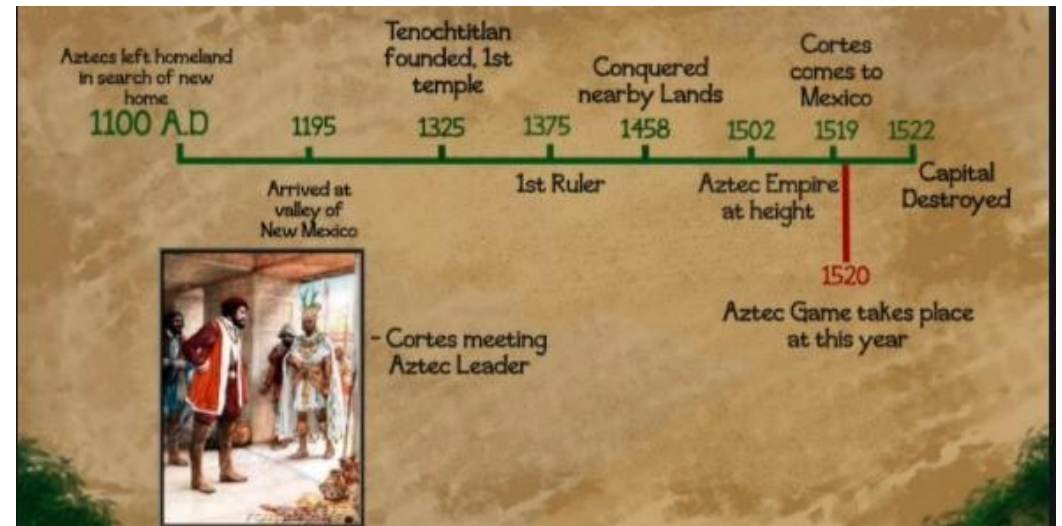
A timeline of the Maya Civilization:



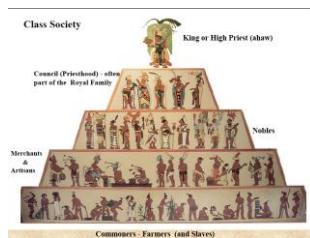
The Maya Civilization did not have one person in power 'king'. Each city-state had their own leader and followed their own rules/regulations. Each state had a hierarchy structure like this:



A timeline of the Aztec Empire:



The Aztecs had a similar structure to the Maya in each of their cities. However, what made them an empire was that they had one king who ruled over the whole empire. This king was whoever was the leader of the capital city, Tenochtitlan.



Find out more about our topic using these links:

[An introduction to the ancient Maya - BBC Bitesize](#)

[BBC Primary History The Aztecs](#)

[Ducksters Maya and Aztecs](#)