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|  | **The Maya** | **I:\Cross Gates Primary\Cross Gates Primary LOGO.jpg** |
| **Year Group: 4** | **Subject Focus: History** | **Term: Summer 1** |
| **Key facts*** Maya cities had similar layouts to each other. They would have a palace for the ruler, a plaza for the market places and temples in the form of pyramids.
* Maya cities were often found near trade routes and good farmland.
* Mayas were polytheists – believing in many nature Gods or deities.
* Priests were considered the most important people in the Maya culture: warriors, craftsmen and traders were next in the hierarchy. Farmers, workers and slaves were at the bottom of the hierarchy.
* Maya merchants traded many goods: salt, cotton, honey and jade.
* The Maya calendar (Tzolkin) consisted of 260 days and 13 months.
* The demise of the Mayan civilisation came about because of a mixture of deforestation, land erosion and drought.
 |  We will look at: * how the Maya civilisation has had an impact on modern society.
* times of little change and times of great change.
* the ideas, beliefs and attitudes of all groups of people in Maya civilisation.

  | **Key words:**

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| architecture | The art of planning, designing and constructing buildings. |
| chronology | The order of events in time. |
| civilisation | A human society with its own organisation and culture. |
| continent | A large area of land that covers many countries. |
| culture | Activities such as arts and philosophy – important for the development of civilisation. |
| demise | Something or someone who is at their end or death. |
| drought | A long period with no rain. |
| economy | The wealth that a society or country gets from business or industry. |
| Mayan | Relating to the characteristics of the Maya people and their language. |
| Mesoamerica | Central America – Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize. |

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| **Did you know?*** South America is a continent.
* The climate in South America is different to the UK.
* Other civilisations include the Egyptians and the Greeks.

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| **Exciting books/ web links:**<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/mayans/><https://www.ducksters.com/history/maya/daily_life.php> | **Parents as partners:**You could do some research online with your child.Find some interesting facts about the Maya.Read a story that is connected to the Maya civilisation. |