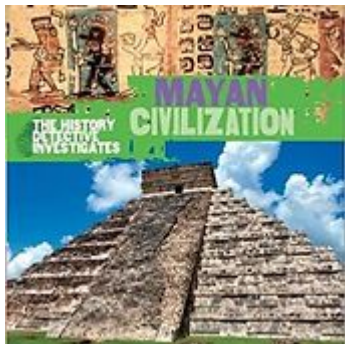# HISTORY: THE MAYA CIVILISATION

GILES BROOK SCHOOL

- The Maya Civilisation lived from 1100 BC to 1502 AD (approx).
- The first Maya ruins were discovered by Spanish explorers.
- The Maya lived in all of the Yucatan Peninsula and modern-day Guatemala; Belize and parts of the Mexican states of Tabasco and Chiapas; and the western part of Honduras and El Salvador.
- The Maya worshipped many gods.
- Priests would perform ceremonies to keep the gods happy.
- The Maya used a base 20 number system using dots and horizontal bars.
- They independently created the concept of zero.

Recommended Text -
### The History Detective Investigates: Mayan Civilization

I already know:
- about life, society and hierarchy in Ancient Egypt.
- that different versions of the past may exist.
- how to use historical data to answer questions about the past.

The Maya Number System

Useful web links
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-introducing-the-maya-civilisation/znk3cqt

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/ks2-ks3-history-of-early-civilisations/zvm647h

Key Vocabulary	
civilisation	A human society with well developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
Mesoamerica	Mesoamerica is a historical region and cultural area that spanned much of Central America - from Mexico through Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica.
codices	Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.
scribes	People trained to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write.
maize	Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas.
cacao	Cacao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When they are ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans, which can then be dried, roasted and ground.