



Y5 History – Comparison: The Maya Civilisation and the Anglo-Saxons

Key Concepts – Civilisation, Knowledge and Power



Essential Knowledge

Where did the Maya live? (Chronology)

The Maya were an ancient civilisation in Mesoamerica (Central America). They lived in areas that are now countries like Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador, often in rainforests and jungle areas. They existed from 2000 BC to approximately 1697 AD.

What were the significant events in the Maya's history? (Chronology)

The Maya built city-states with large palaces and temples. They also created advanced systems for maths and writing.

What were Maya city-states like? (Evidence)

The Maya lived in city-states, each with its own ruler and council of priests rather than one empire. These cities often had large temples, palaces and busy markets.

What did the Maya invent? (Historical enquiry & Change and Continuity)

The Maya invented a system of writing using symbols (hieroglyphs) and a number system that included zero. They also made accurate calendars to track time and plan events.

What happened to the Maya city-states? (Cause and Consequence)

Many Maya city-states were abandoned around AD 900, although we are not completely sure why. Historians think it may have been because of drought, lack of food, fighting or disease, but the Maya people did not disappear and still live in Central America today.

Who were the Anglo-Saxons? (Generating Curiosity)

The Anglo-Saxons were a mix of tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. They were considered an advanced civilisation due to their many achievements in farming, writing, maths and astronomy.

How can I compare the Maya and the Anglo-Saxons? (Similarity and Difference)

The Anglo-Saxons and the Maya both built settlements and had their own rulers and beliefs. However, the Maya lived in hot jungles in Central America, while the Anglo-Saxons lived in cooler Britain and had different ways of life.

Key Vocabulary

astronomy	the scientific study of stars, planets and other celestial objects and the universe
codex	an ancient manuscript in book form
deforestation	the clearing of large areas of trees
maya	the collective noun for the Mayan people
polytheistic	related to the worship of many gods
sacrifice	something or someone offered or surrendered
warrior	an experienced soldier



Aspirational Knowledge

Farming helped the Maya civilisation grow strong and powerful. They built temples, ballcourts, and plazas, and worshipped many gods and goddesses. Deforestation, overpopulation, and wars between city-states contributed to their decline. Artefacts reveal differences between rich and poor Maya people. Chichen Itza and Tikal were two important Maya cities.

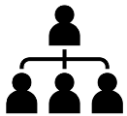


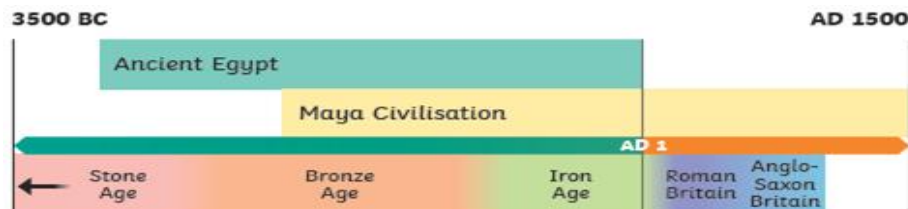
Y5 History – Comparison: The Maya Civilisation and the Anglo-Saxons

Key Concepts – Civilisation, Knowledge and Power



Key Knowledge
Where did the Maya live? The Maya were an ancient civilisation in Mesoamerica (Central America) that lived over 3000 years ago.
What were the important events in the Maya's history? The Maya built city-states. They also created systems for maths and writing.
What were Maya city-states like? The Maya empire was organised into city-states. Each city-state was ruled by a different noble family.
How did the Maya invent? The Maya used hieroglyphs to write and invented a number system that included 0.
What happened to the Maya city-states? Many Maya city-states were abandoned around AD 900, although we are not completely sure why.
Who were the Anglo-Saxons? The Anglo-Saxons were a mix of tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.
What is the same and different about the Maya and the Anglo-Saxons? The Anglo-Saxons and the Maya both built settlements and had their own rulers and beliefs. However, the Maya lived in hot jungles in Central America, while the Anglo-Saxons lived in cooler Britain and had different ways of life.

Key Vocabulary		
citizen		a legally recognised person of a country, state or city
declining		becoming less or weaker
descendant		an ancestor or relative from the past
famine		an extreme shortage of food
maya		the collective noun for the Mayan people
native		a local inhabitant





Y5 History – The Ancient Greeks

Key Concepts – Civilisation, Democracy, Power & Knowledge



Essential Knowledge

Who were the Ancient Greeks and when did they rule? (Chronology)

Ancient Greece existed from 800 BCE to 146 BCE. It was made up of independent city-states like Athens and Sparta.

What beliefs did the Ancient Greeks hold? (Historical Enquiry)

Greeks believed in many gods who lived on Mount Olympus. Zeus was the king of the gods.

City-States: What was the difference between Athens and Sparta? (Similarity and Difference)

Athens and Sparta were powerful city-states. Many city-states were ruled by kings (monarchies).

What was democracy like in Athens? (Significance)

Athens used democracy, where people could vote. Only adult male citizens could vote.

Why was theatre important to the Ancient Greeks? (Evidence)

Theatre was part of Greek arts and culture. It was used to share stories and ideas.

What myths and fables did the Ancient Greeks create? (Generating Curiosity)

Myths explained gods and how the world works. Stories were important to Greek culture and beliefs.

What happened at the Battle of Marathon and the Battle of Salamis? (Cause and Consequence)

Greeks fought against the Persians. They won important land and sea battles.

Why were the Olympic Games invented by the Ancient Greeks? (Change and Continuity)

The Olympic Games began in Ancient Greece to honour Zeus. They brought people together through sport.

Who was Alexander the Great and why was he so renowned? (Chronology)

Alexander was a king and leader. He is famous for building a large empire.

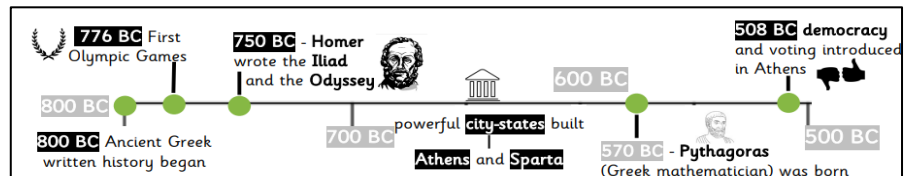
Key Vocabulary

ancient	time before the Roman Empire ended
city-state	an independent city with its own government, laws and army
citizen	a resident of a country who enjoys full rights
democracy	a political system where power is held by the people voting is a key element of democracy
monarchy	a political system where power is held by a king or queen
oligarchy	a political system where power is held by a small group of wealthy elites
slave	someone who is treated as property

Aspirational Knowledge

Alexander the Great led Ancient Greece to build a huge empire. After his death, the Greek empire lost power and was eventually conquered by the Romans.

Rich women were not allowed to leave their homes without their husband or a slave. Ancient Greeks believed there were 12 Olympians: gods who lived on Mount Olympus. There were three main types of government: democracy, monarchy and oligarchy.

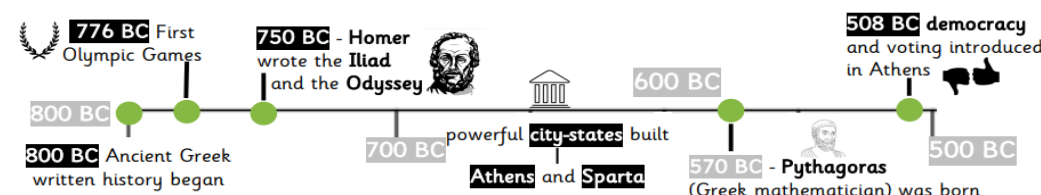




Y5 History – The Ancient Greeks

Key Concepts – Civilisation, Democracy, Power & Knowledge



Key Knowledge		Key Vocabulary	
Who were the Ancient Greeks? Ancient Greece existed between 800 – 146BCE. It was not a country. It was made up of city-states.		ancient 	long ago a time before the Roman Empire ended
What did the Ancient Greeks believe? Ancient Greeks believed in gods that watched over them. The king of the gods was Zeus.		city-state 	a city with its own laws, government and army
What was different about Athens and Sparta? Athens and Sparta were the most powerful city-states. Men and women lived very differently in ancient Greece. Men had jobs and were soldiers. Women looked after the house and the family. Most ancient Greek families had slaves.		democracy 	where laws and decisions are voted on by citizens
How did people vote in Athens? Athens was the first place to let some people (free men) vote on the laws.		soldier 	someone who fights in an army
Why was theatre important to the Ancient Greeks? Theatre was important because it entertained people and was used to tell stories about gods, history, and life lessons.		slave 	someone who is owned by someone else
What stories did the Ancient Greeks tell? The Ancient Greeks told myths about gods, heroes, and how the world was created.		temple 	a building to worship gods
What happened at the Battle of Marathon and the Battle of Salamis? The Greeks defeated the Persians at Marathon on land and at Salamis in a sea battle.			
Why did the Ancient Greeks make the Olympic Games? The Olympic Games were created to honour the god Zeus and bring people together through sport.			
Who was Alexander the Great? Alexander the Great was a powerful Greek king who created a large empire by winning many battles.			