



**Buxton Junior School**

Year 5 Topic Information Sheet - Spring Term

## History - Where did the Maya people go?

### Key facts which the children will have learnt by the end of this topic:

The Maya people lived (and still live) in what is known as Central America (or Mesoamerica, or middle America), in the tropical rain-forest.

Between AD250-AD900, they inhabited Guatemala, Honduras, Belize and South Mexico in massive city-states.

The word 'Mayan' should only be used when talking about language e.g. Mayan words. For the rest of the time Maya is used e.g. Maya people.

The Maya civilisation declined due to deforestation, wars and drought.

Maya people still live and go about their daily life as we do.

### Main concepts with links to prior and current learning:

**CIVILISATION** (e.g. cities, architecture, laws, beliefs, culture, art)

**KNOWLEDGE** (e.g. build pyramids; invent a number, writing and calendar system)

**POWER** (e.g. power to advance technology e.g. attack city states, powerful kings constantly warring)

**Links:** Y4—direct comparison to the Anglo-Saxons and some aspects of Ancient Egypt.

**Key Vocabulary:** You may wish to discuss the meanings of these words with your child.

population, famine, descendant, declining, citizen, native, deforestation, codex, sacrifice, astronomy, warrior, polytheistic

Ourselves	Our Environment	The Wider World
<p>To generate our own questions and re-search.</p> <p>Outdoor learning: survival in a forest environment, map skills in action</p>	<p>- debating deforestation and human effects on the climate</p> <p>- compare climate (Middle America and UK)</p>	<p>- Comparing cultures (Maya people and Anglo Saxons plus modern day Maya people and ourselves)</p> <p>-Understanding that our world is full of different people with different needs</p>

### Our Class Texts

This term we will be studying the following texts in our English lessons:  
The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes, The Arrival by Shaun Tan and Macbeth by Shakespeare

**Universal Themes: Power, Invention, Journeys, Equality and Diversity, Conflict**