

## Key prior knowledge

We use BC and AD dating to say when things happened. BC means 'before Christ'. It is the time before the birth of Christ. AD means 'Anno Domini'. It is all the time after BC.

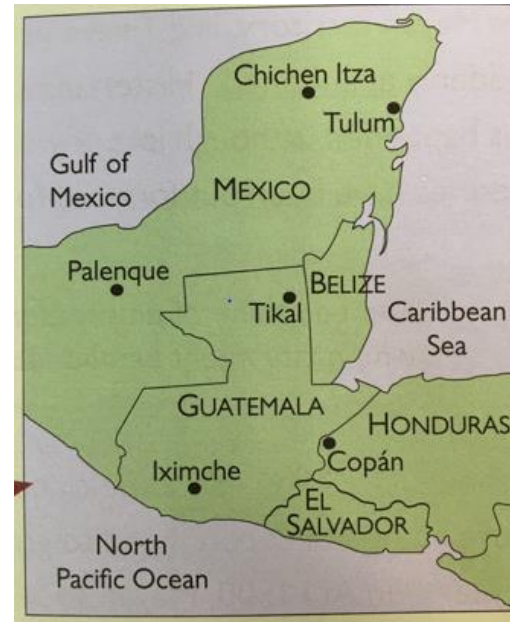
We can also describe when things happened using centuries. A century is a period of 100 years.

We can use primary and secondary sources to find out about the past. Primary sources are first hand evidence, such as artefacts from a period in history. Secondary sources are produced by other researchers.

Hunter-gatherers don't live in one place, but travel around to find food. Permanent settlements are when people to farm and stay in one place.

Vocabulary	Definition
Civilisation	A society of people which are characterised by urban development, government and a social system.
Sustainability	The idea that humans must interact with the environment in a way that ensures there will be enough resources left for future generations.
Settlement	A place which has previously been uninhabited where people establish a community.
Cacao	Seeds from a small tropical American tree from which chocolate is made.
City state	An independent state made up of a city, farmland and villages around it

## Topic – Mexico Year 5 and 6



### Significant individuals and places

Mesoamerica – the area now known as central America

Chichen Itza – a famous city state

Kukulcan – the God of Chichen Itza

K'inichi Yax K'uk' Mo' – a warrior from Tikal

### Chronology (timeline)

From 2000 BC	The Mayan civilisation begins in Central America
1750 BC	First evidence of cocoa being cultivated for chocolate
By 800 BC	Farming is well established
700 BC	Writing develops
400 BC	The first calendars are carved on stone
From 300 BC	The Mayans build large and powerful cities
900 AD	Cities in the rainforests are abandoned
1500's AD	Decline of the Mayans after the Spanish invade

## Mexican culture

Mariachi is a genre of regional Mexican music dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

16<sup>th</sup> September – Mexican independence day!

Day of the dead (November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>) – is both a commemoration and celebration of life

80% of the population identifies as Roman Catholic

In Mexico, Spanish is the language of the government and the majority of the population.

## Achievements

Farming – despite their tools only being made from stone and wood, the Mayans were very successful farmers, growing crops such as maize, beans, squash, sweet potatoes, avocados, tomatoes, papayas and Chilli peppers.

Chocolate – The Mayans made a special chocolate drink called xocolatl from the beans of the cocoa tree.

Cities – using only simple tools and materials, the Maya built enormous cities. Their construction techniques were so successful that many of their buildings are still standing today.

Writing – one of the great Mayan inventions was their writing system. They used a sophisticated symbol of symbols called hieroglyphs

## Where (map)

