





Year 6: Let's Learn About... Hola Mexico! Autumn 1



Mayan Definitions				Key Locations and Landmarks		Key Questions	
civilisation	A well-organised and developed society	temple	A place of worship	Mexico City 	The capital city of Mexico which is home to around 9 million people	Who were the Maya?	The Maya were a group of indigenous people who lived in Mexico and other parts of Central America over 3000 years ago.
deity	A god or goddess	maize	The plant that grows corn in rows in fields	Chihuahuan Desert 	One of the largest deserts in North America where summers are extremely hot and there is little rainfall	What do we use from the Mayan Civilisation today?	The Maya were experts in farming, pottery, writing and maths. They also created a complex calendar based on their understanding of maths and astronomy
sacrifice	A ritual in which people offered themselves or part of themselves to the gods	cacao	The seeds that are the source of cocoa and chocolate	Chichen Itza 	An ancient city built by the Maya, which is now ruins, located in Yucatan, Mexico	What did the Mayan people do for fun?	Mayans enjoyed religious ceremonies where they played music, danced and played ball games
glyphs	The writing system of the Mayan civilisation	ulama or pok a tok	A ball game played by the Ancient Maya where the leader of the losing team was killed	El Castillo 	A Mayan step-pyramid at the centre of Chichen Itza	What did the Maya believe in?	Religion featured strongly in Mayan life and they worshipped nature gods (such as the god of sun) and engaged in rituals of human sacrifice

Mexico is located in the south of the continent of North America. It has a diverse landscape that includes mountains, rainforests and deserts. This means that its climate is very varied and there are a wide range of plants and animals found there. Some people live in rural communities there and others live in large cities.

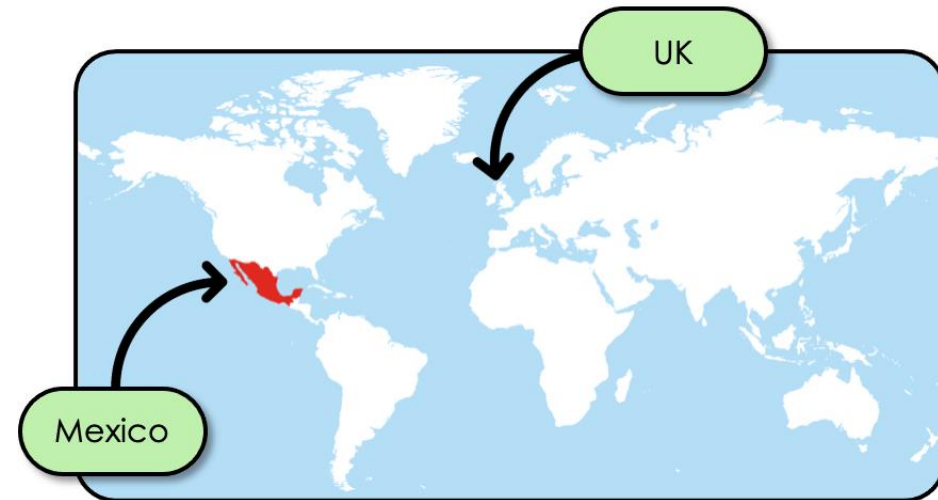
Food plays an important part in Mexican culture and many of these can be traced back thousands of years to the Maya. Music and dance are essential to the culture of Mexico. One well-known type of music is mariachi. A traditional Mexican song is *La Cucaracha* which means 'the cockroach'.

Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos)

Day of the Dead or 'Dia de los Muertos' will be celebrated on 2nd November this year. This festival takes place every year and is celebrated by Mexican communities across the world. It is a positive celebration to remember loved ones who have died. Families set up altars to remember the deceased. Decorative skull costumes are very common.



Timeline	
3114 BC	The Maya calendar begins
1000 BC	Maya settlements develop
750 BC	Large stone structures are built in Maya cities
600 BC	The Maya create a settlement at Tikal that later becomes a major city
300 BC	The Maya begin to use a monarchy government and develop a writing system known as glyphs
100 BC	The largest known ancient city in the Americas, Teotihuacan, is founded in the Valley of Mexico
250 AD	The Maya become one of the most significant civilisations. They dominate Central America
900 AD	The Maya civilisation begins to mysteriously decline. People begin to live in smaller villages and abandon the great Maya cities
1200 AD	The Maya abandon their northern cities
1400 AD	The surviving Maya suffer a period of warfare, natural disasters and disease
1500 AD	Spanish explorers take land and wealth from the remaining Maya



Key Geographic Vocabulary	
equator	An imaginary line around the middle of the earth, between the northern and southern hemisphere, halfway between the North and South pole
desert	A waterless area of land with little vegetation, typically covered with sand
climate	The weather in a particular place over a period of time
society	People who live together in a community
hierarchy	A system where members of society are ranked according to their status or authority
indigenous	People, plants or animals that originated in a place