

History project: Maya civilisation

We are learning about the ancient Maya in class. Please complete one of the challenges below to help you understand their fascinating culture.

If you like, you can complete both challenges!

Maya Civilisation Calendars

The ancient Maya developed a sophisticated calendar system to track time and help them to keep order in the world. There were three calendars called **The Long Count**, **The Tzolk'in** and **The Haab**, which were used simultaneously.

The Long Count was used to track longer periods of time. Each cycle of time lasted 2,880,000 days or 5125 years.

The Haab was a 365 day solar calendar which consisted of 18 months of 20 days and a short month of 5 days.

The Tzolk'in was a 260 day religious calendar. It had 20 days and 13 numbers that were combined to form the full 260 cycle.

Your challenge is to find out more about the **Tzolk'in** or **Haab** calendar and write an explanation about it. You should also create a diagram or model to illustrate how it works.

You could even create your own Maya calendar using instructions online: mayaarchaeologist.co.uk/2017/03/31/maya-calendar.



Jade Investigation

Jade is a metamorphic rock consisting of the minerals jadeite or nephrite (although the jade in Mesoamerica only had jadeite, as nephrite is from China).

Jade was very precious to the ancient Maya people who used it to create items of jewellery and mosaic masks among other things.

Your challenge is to investigate just how important jade was to the ancient Maya people and create a presentation to explain it back in class.

You may choose to create a poster, a quiz, write a speech, make a PowerPoint presentation or you can demonstrate your learning in any other way that you prefer.

