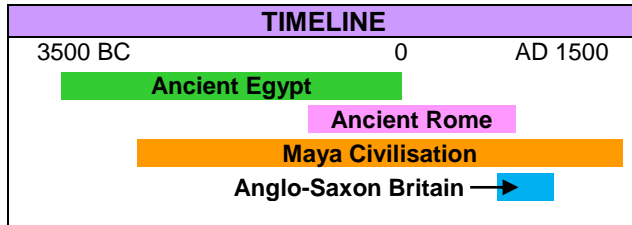


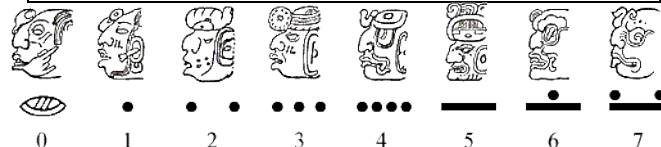
MYSTERIOUS MAYA KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

2000 BC	300BC	AD 300	AD 900	AD 1000	AD 1500s	AD 1839	AD2014
The Maya civilisation emerges in Central America.	Cities, such as El Mirador, become large and powerful.	Maya settlements become centres for trading goods such as stone and chocolate.	Cities in the rainforest are abandoned due to an extensive drought .	Cities like Chichén Itzá (which has two temple pyramids) are still thriving	The Spanish arrive in South America and set out to destroy anything left of the Maya.	John Lloyd Stephens and Frederick Catherwood reignite interest in the Maya.	The cities of Lagunita and Tamchén are rediscovered.



KEY PEOPLE	
The Priest	Held the regular rituals surrounding the temple including sacrifices.
The Pharmacist	Provided natural medicines which kept the people very healthy.
The Farmer	Irrigated fields and provided food for the city.
John Lloyd Stephens	American explorer and writer who reignited interest in Maya civilisation.
Frederick Catherwood	British Artist who reignited interest in Maya civilisation.

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE FOR US?
<p>Astronomy very accurate charts of the moon</p> <p>Sculpture mainly of the human form</p> <p>Architecture stepped temples</p> <p>Medicine many natural cures used are still in use today.</p> <p>Number system more advanced/logical and first system to use '0'</p>



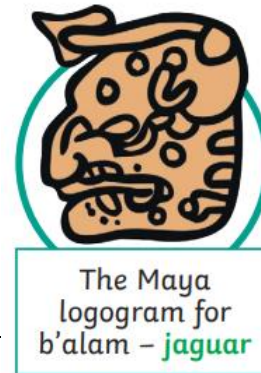
WRITING & NUMBERS

The Maya writing system was made up of over 800 symbols called 'glyphs'. Some glyphs were **logograms**, representing a whole word and some were **syllabograms**, representing units of sound.

They were carved into stone buildings and monuments and painted onto pottery.

Maya scribes also wrote books called **codices** made from the bark of fig trees.

Only priests and noblemen would know the whole written language.



RELIGION

The Maya believed in and worshipped a number of different gods. They believed that the gods had a good side **and** a bad side and could help them **or** hurt them.

The Maya would dance, sing and sometimes make offerings of blood to the gods.

KEY VOCABULARY	
cacao beans	Little beans found in the pods that grow on cacao trees.
civilisation	An organised society with its own culture and way of life.
codices	Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.
drought	A long period with very little rain.
jaguar	A big cat, heavier than a leopard, with yellowish fur and black spots.
maize	Another word for corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas.
ritual	A ceremony, often religious, with set actions performed in a set order.
scribes	People paid to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write.

FOOD

Maize was a very important crop that formed up to 80% of the Maya people's diets. They believed that the first humans were made from **maize** dough by the gods.

The Maya made a bitter chocolate flavoured drink from **cacao beans** that was enjoyed by the rich and used for medicines and in ceremonies.

The beans were highly valued and even used as a form of money.

