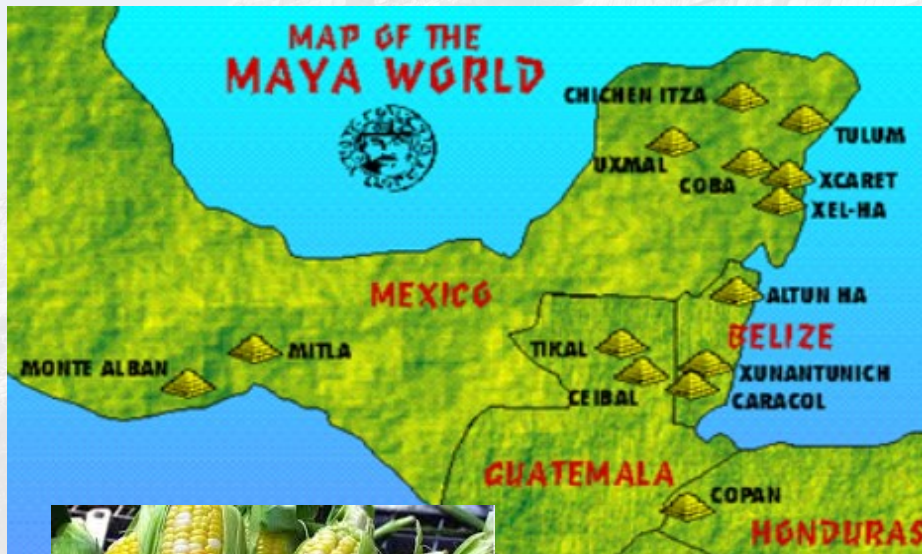


# Why was the Ancient Maya civilisation once so successful?

## History and Geography Overview

The Maya were an ancient civilisation in Mesoamerica (Central America) who existed from approximately 2000BC till 1697AD. They were considered an advanced civilisation due to their many achievements. They were also known for creating elaborate ceremonial architecture, such as pyramids, temples, palaces, and observatories. These structures were all built without metal tools.



## Maya Achievements

- > Their own language (Mayan)
- > A written form of communication
- > A complex numerical system and their own calendar
- > Spectacular pyramids and temples

## Key Vocabulary

Agriculture	Hieroglyphics
Astronomy	Kingdom
Artefact	Maize
Calendar	Prediction
Chichen Itza	Sacrifice
City State	Settlement
Civilisation	Temple
Dynasty	Tomb
	Worship

## Core Knowledge

**Civilisation:** The Maya lived in Central America and the Yucatán Peninsula from at least 1800 B.C. and flourished in the region until the civilisation collapsed around 900AD. The Maya developed the science of astronomy, calendar systems, and hieroglyphic writing.

**Power:** A single centralized leader known as the King or K'uhul Ajaw, who was most often a man but occasionally a woman. Pakal the Great ruled for 68 years and built bigger temples and palaces. This power was reinforced by other elites, including merchants.

**Trade:** The Maya considered crops such as maize and cacao beans to be a gift from the gods and even used them as currency because of their value.

**Migration:** Maya culture originated in the northern reaches of what is now Guatemala about 600 BC, and migrated north to the Yucatan Peninsula beginning around 700 AD.

**Legacy:** They developed a written language of hieroglyphs and invented the mathematical concept of Zero.

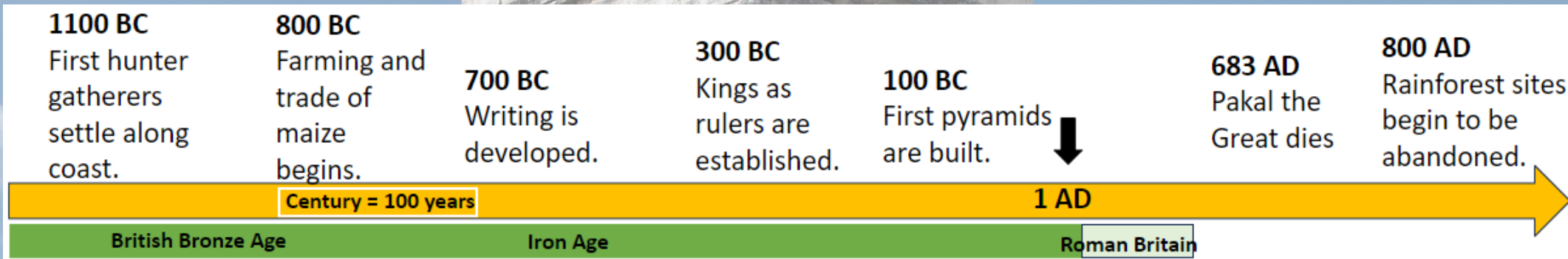


# Why was the Ancient Maya Civilisation once so successful?

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Year 4 - Autumn Term 2

## CHRONOLOGY



## St. Paul's World History Timeline

