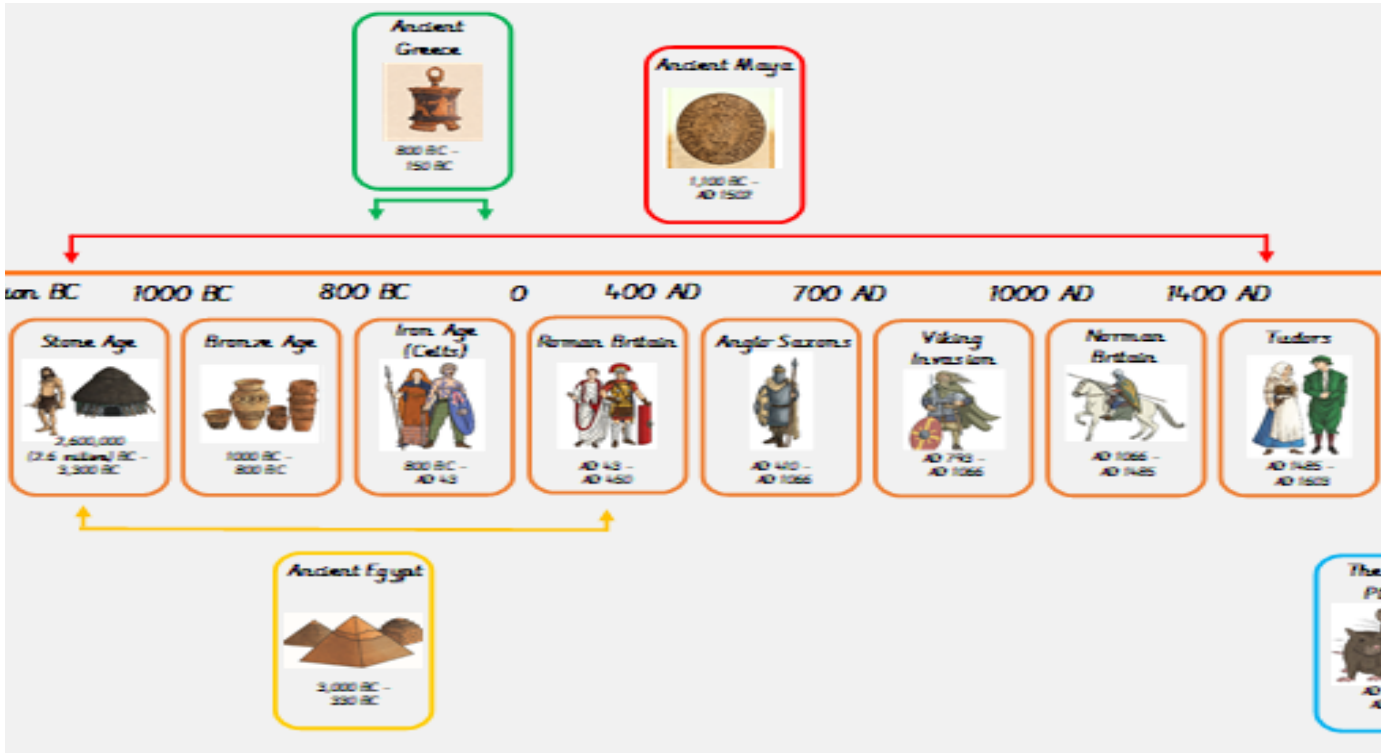
KEY KNOWLEDGE FACT SHEET YEAR FIVE—ANCIENT MAYA





TEMPLE AT CHICHEN ITZA



OVERVIEW

- ⇒ The **Maya civilisation** began long ago in a place called **'Mesoamerica'**.
- ⇒ This huge area is made up of **Mexico** and part of **North America**.
- ⇒ They were considered an advanced civilisation due to their many achievements, such as the architecture in **Chichen Itza** and ability to move heavy stones by log rolling.
- ⇒ The Maya built amazing cities like **Tikal** and **Palenque**.
- ⇒ They were experts at reading the stars and even built their cities as a map of the sky!
- ⇒ Mayan culture was well established by 1100BC, and it lasted until 1542AD .
- ⇒ Similar to other ancient civilisations such as the Ancient Egyptians and the Romans, the Ancient Maya believed Gods and Goddesses to explain different areas of their life, such as farming, war and love.
- ⇒ There is no single answer to explain the cause of the Ancient Maya civilisation - possible causes include deforestation, human dis-ease, disease, technology, drought, war or predictions associated with their calendar.