

## Key Vocabulary



Maya

An ancient people who lived on the American continent up until 500 years ago



cacao

The dried partly fermented fatty seeds of a South American evergreen tree used in making cocoa, chocolate, and cocoa butter.



glyphs

Short for hieroglyphs, the Mayan system of writing using pictures to represent words.



The cosmos

The Mayan name for how they believed that the universe was organised.



Itzamna

The Mayan creator god.



decline

To gradually get smaller.

## Mayan Civilisation Sticky Knowledge Mat

### Year 4 Summer Term 1



## Important Information

The Maya civilisation began long ago in a place called Mesoamerica. This huge area is made up of Mexico and part of Central America.

The Mayan civilisation was around from about 2000BC to 1600AD.

They were amazing inventors... so amazing that they invented chocolate! They also created spectacular buildings and beautiful objects made from jade, a rare and valuable material.

The Maya believed the Earth had the form of a giant turtle that floated on an endless ocean and that the sky was held up by four mighty gods called Bacabs. There were 13 levels in the heavens and 9 levels in the shadowy underworld. People lived on a level in between.