



Paganel Primary School – Autumn Term Knowledge Organiser

Year Group: 6 Topic: Ancient Civilisations

Prior knowledge

- History: Understanding of plotting historical events on a time, an understanding of how historical events have impacted our lives today and some understanding of different roles within society.
- D&T: Understanding of planning, making and evaluating a project.
- Art: Awareness of different methods of art, patterns and colours.

Key Knowledge

- The Aztecs were a group or tribe of warriors.
- They lived as nomads, which meant they travelled around different parts of central America until they settled in the valley of Mexico around 1300.
- They were known for being rather fierce!
- The Aztecs built their own capital city, called Tenochtitlán, on a marshy island near the edge of Lake Texcoco.
- The Aztecs built palaces, pyramids and temples and created a powerful city for themselves.
- Religion was very important to the Aztecs and they believed in many gods.
- It was important to keep the gods happy so the Aztecs even sacrificed human life to do just that!
- Every Aztec male was trained as a warrior.
- Aztec children had to go to school.
- The Aztecs were very skilled people – great at hunting, fishing, farming and art – and what's more they discovered chocolate!

Key Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition/Sentence
Emperor	The male, supreme leader of an Empire. He was also commander of the armed forces.
Nahuatl	Language of the Aztecs.
Sacrifice	An offering to the Gods. This could be animal, food or human offerings.
Temple	A sacred building where the Aztecs could worship their Gods.
Tenoch	Aztec Priest and ruler.
Ulama	A ball game played by the Aztecs. The pitch was the shape of an I.



Images and Diagrams



Example Mayan house



Example of an initial design