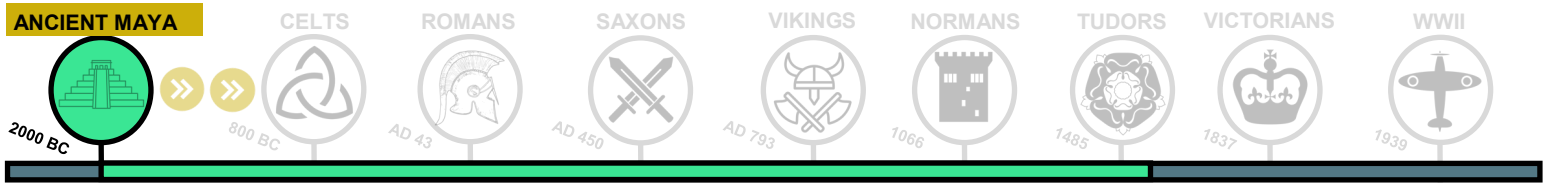
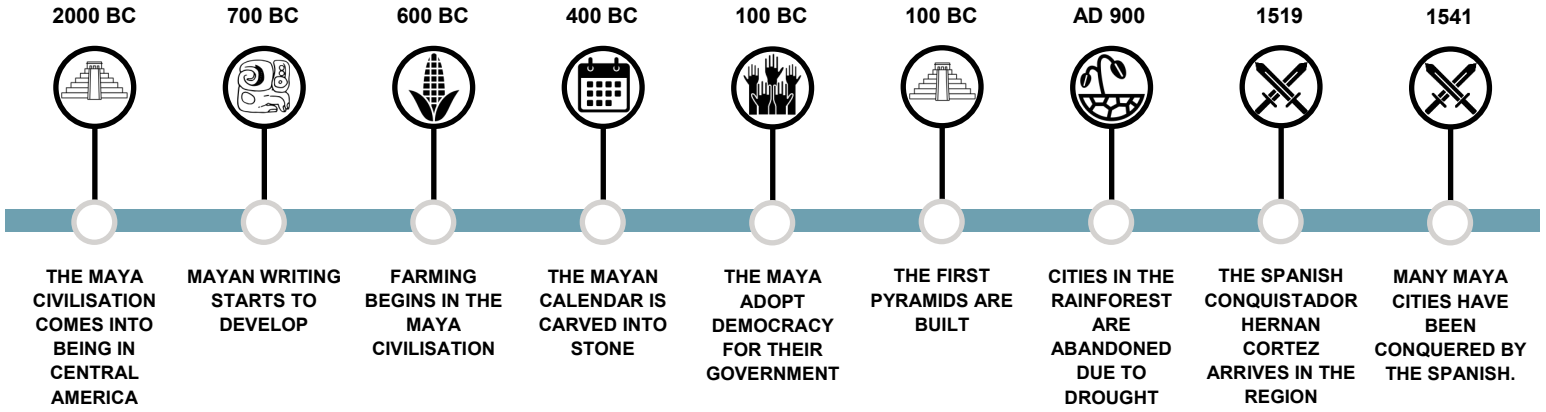
Year 5: The Ancient Maya.

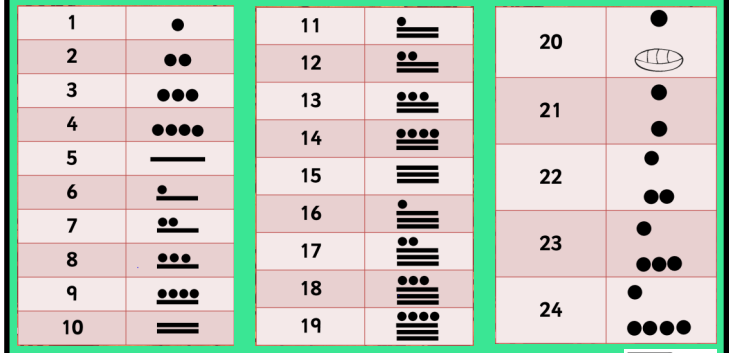
HISTORICAL CONTEXT



WHAT?

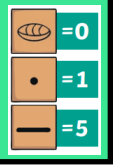


MAYA NUMBER SYSTEM:

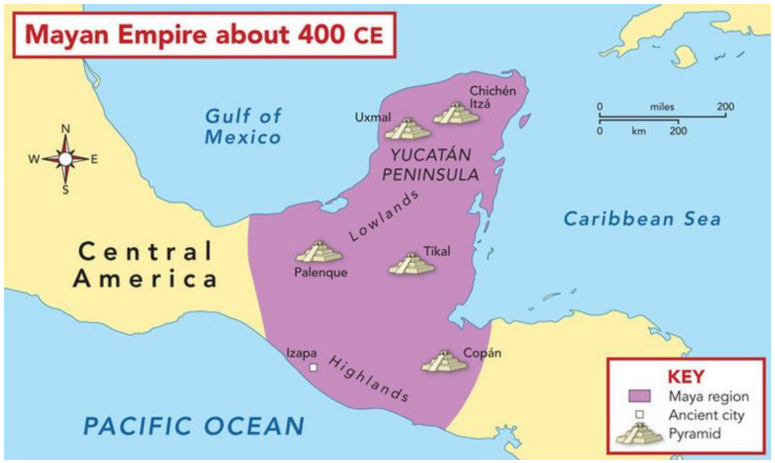


The Maya used just three symbols in their number system.

The Maya used a 'Base-20' number system, so after 19, multiples of 20 are written above the bottom number.



CENTRAL AMERICA:



KEY VOCABULARY

ARCHAEOLOGIST: A person who studies human history and pre-history by analysing artefacts.

BASE-20: A numerical system based on 20 whereas our number system is based on Base-10.

CACAO: Seeds from a tropical tree, used to make chocolate and cocoa.

CIVILISATION: process by which a society or place reaches an advanced stage of social and cultural development and organization.

CONQUISTADOR: A conqueror from Spain from the 16th Century.

DROUGHT: A period of time when an area experiences very low levels of rainfall.

GLYPH: A character or symbol used as a part of written communication.

HAAB: The 365-day year of the Mayan calendar.

INVADERS: A person or group that invades a country, region or place.

MAIZE: A Central American plant that is known as corn in the UK.

SACRIFICE: The killing of an animal or person as a gift for a religious deity.