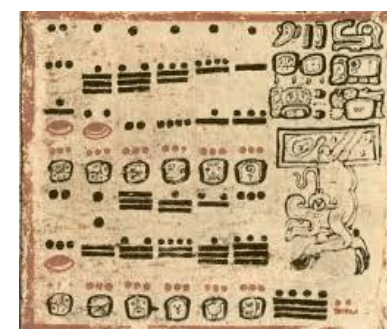




Marvellous Maya

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Key Vocabulary	
Civilisation	A large organised society with its own was, culture, writing and way of living.
Mesoamerica	The historic region (mostly Central America and Mexico) where the Maya lived thousands of years ago.
City-State	An independent city that has it's own kings and laws.
Hieroglyphs	A clever system of writing using picture symbols instead of letters.
Decline	A gradual down-hill slide where a civilisation becomes weaker, loses power or is abandoned.
Deforestation	Cutting or clearing away huge areas of trees and forests very quickly.
Drought	A long, dangerous period of time with almost no rain, causing land and water to dry up.
Agriculture	The practice of farming, growing crops and keeping animals for food.
Invasion	When an enemy army uses forces to break into another country or city to take it over.

How did a civilisation of powerful kings and great inventors decline?

MAKING LINKS TO PREVIOUS LEARNING. What should we already know?

- How to look at clues from the past (artefacts and ruins) to understand how people used to live.
- That ancient civilisations need water, food sources and strong leaders to grow powerful (like the Romans and Ancient Egyptians).
- The difference between a physical cause and a human cause.

MAKING LINKS TO NEW LEARNING. What will we know?

- Where the Maya civilisation was located in the world and exactly when they ruled.
- Why the Maya were so successful.
- How human actions can accidentally trigger environmental disasters.
- The impact that long droughts have on the civilisation's water supply and food chain.
- How warfare can affect a country.