

KQI RSI Maya Spectrum activity cards

Why should we teach the Mayan civilization in our school?

The schools in your area have not made up their mind which non-western civilization to teach at KS2 from 2014. They are thinking about teaching the **Maya** but they want you to convince them. Which of these arguments is the strongest? Which is the weakest? For teaching the Maya in junior schools

<p>1. They built lots of large cities much bigger than those in England at the time.</p>	<p>2. Without the use of the cartwheel or metal tools, they built massive stone stepped pyramids.</p>	<p>3. It is important to learn about people with different customs and religions.</p>
<p>4. It is only in the last 100 years that we have discovered their buildings which were covered up by plants for hundreds of years.</p>	<p>5. They were clever scientists and astronomers. They tracked a solar year of 365 days. From observatories, like the one at Chichen Itza, they tracked the progress of the war star, Venus.</p>	<p>6. They gave us food like :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Chocolate •Maize •Vanilla •Chillies •Avocado •Tomato

7. They were good at mathematics and understood the idea of zero.	8. They had an advanced system of writing.	9. The Mayan civilization lasted two thousand years.
10. They were very artistic and made beautiful objects. It is important to learn about the art of different countries.	11. They played ball games in a court.	12. They were a very well-organised society. They must have been to build those massive and amazing pyramids.

