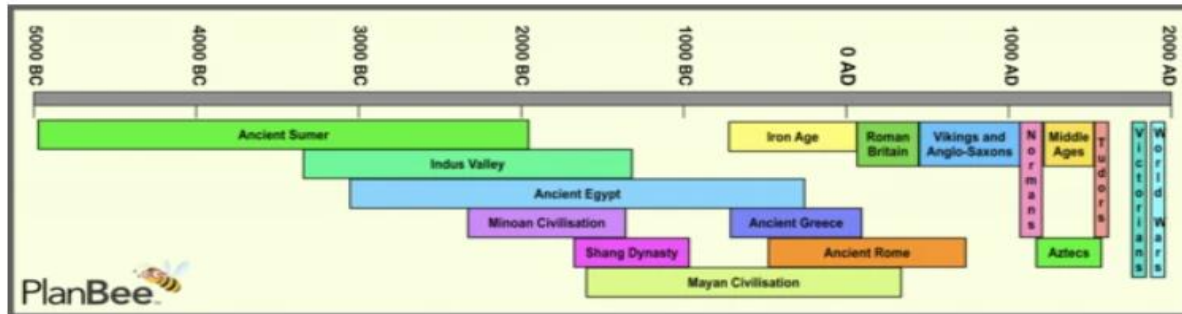
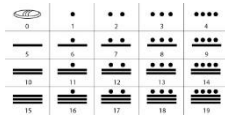


# Knowledge Organiser- Year 6 – Summer 1/The Mayans – What was life like for an Ancient Mayan?



## Key Concepts and Facts

1	<b>The Mayans were an advanced society.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Maya were a Stone Age society in Central America. This area now includes mainly parts of Guatemala and Mexico. They formed a society of city states, largely based in tropical rainforests.</li> <li>The Maya first appeared around 2000 BC, but their main period is from around 0 AD to around 1300 AD.</li> <li>There was a big change in the civilisation around 900 AD, when many Maya cities were deserted and around 90% of the population disappeared. Historians disagree about why this happened.</li> </ul>
2	<b>The Maya people used a written language and a numeral system. They made calendars.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Maya invented the concept of zero. This concept and understanding of mathematics was very advanced for its time. In their numeral system, the ancient Maya only used three symbols to represent all numbers. A dot has a numerical value of 1, a line (or bar) a numerical value of 5 and a shell has the value of 0. These are thought to represent what they first used to count with.</li> <li>The Maya also invented an accurate calendar using their knowledge of astronomy and mathematics.</li> <li>The Maya used an advanced form of writing called hieroglyphics. Their writing looks similar to the ancient Egyptians, but is actually quite different. In Mayan hieroglyphics, they used symbols (also called glyphs) to represent words, sounds, or objects. By putting several glyphs together the Maya wrote sentences and told stories.</li> </ul>
3	<b>We can use artefacts to find out what the Mayans believed in</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Maya believed in many gods. They believed their gods could help or hurt them. They worshiped their gods every day. Religion was at the heart of everything they did.</li> <li>The main way archaeologists know about the Maya religion is through Mayan texts - such as the Popol Vuh - which describe the religious ceremonies and beliefs of the Maya.</li> </ul>



## Key Vocabulary

1	<b>Societies</b>	a large group of people who live together in an organised way, making decisions about how to do things and sharing the work that needs to be done. All the people in a country, or in several similar countries, can be referred to as a society.
2	<b>Contrast</b>	an obvious difference between two or more things.
3	<b>Stelae</b>	A stone slab or column with writing carved into it, often serving as a gravestone.
4	<b>Monument</b>	A structure created for a special event.
5	<b>Maize</b>	A Central American cereal plant which has large grains (corn or sweetcorn) set in rows on a cob.
6	<b>Hieroglyphic</b>	A writing system using pictures and symbols.



## Key dates:

<b>1,100 BC</b>	The first hunter gatherers settle on the Pacific coast.
<b>800 BC</b>	Village farming and trade becomes established.
<b>700 BC</b>	Mayan writing is developed in Mesoamerica (Guatemala, Mexico, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador).
<b>400 BC</b>	Earliest solar calendars are invented.
<b>300 BC</b>	The social structure begins to include nobles as kings and rulers.
<b>100 BC</b>	The first pyramids are built.

