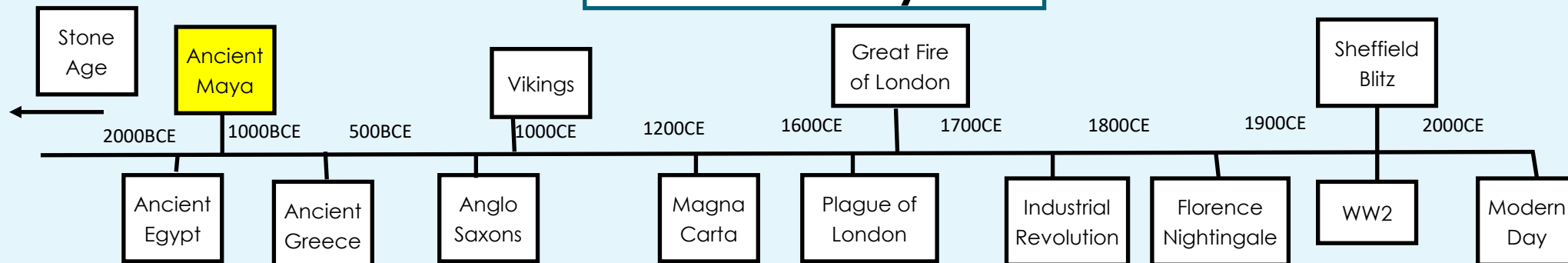


History - Y6 Autumn

Ancient Mayans



Key vocabulary to remember and use in your learning

dominance	Used to mean 'the best at' or 'supreme'.
Early Maya	Small communities, cultivating crops.
Classic Maya	Development of cities, raising monuments. A period of considerable intellectual and artistic growth.
Post-Classic Maya	Abandoned major classical cities due to warfare and opted for settlements near permanent water sources.
calendar	The Mayans developed the first calendar, which ended on December 21, 2012.
society	A group of people living together with different jobs and roles.
prophecy	A belief that someone can speak of, and has knowledge of, future events.
elements	Earth, air, fire and water.
sacrifice	To give something (maybe a life) up for a supposed greater good.

Key knowledge to know and use

- The Maya believed in and worshipped a number of different gods. They believed that the gods had a good side and a bad side and that the gods could help or hurt them. The Maya would dance, sing and sometimes make offerings of blood to the gods.
- The Maya people believed that the earth, which they called the Middleworld, was large and flat and resting on the back of a creature, such as a turtle or crocodile. On the Middleworld grew a tree whose branches reached up into the heavens (the Upperworld) and whose roots grew down into Xibalba (the Underworld), which was guarded by gods of death.
- Maize was a very important crop that formed up to 80% of the Maya people's diets. They believed that the first humans were made from maize dough by the gods. The Maya made a bitter chocolatey drink from cacao beans that was enjoyed by the rich and used for medicines and in ceremonies. The beans were highly valued and even used as a form of money.
- The Maya writing system, used to write several different Maya languages, was made up of over 800 symbols called glyphs. Some glyphs were logograms, representing a whole word, and some were syllabograms, representing units of sound. They were carved onto stone buildings and monuments and painted onto pottery. Maya scribes also wrote books, called codices, made from the bark of fig trees.