

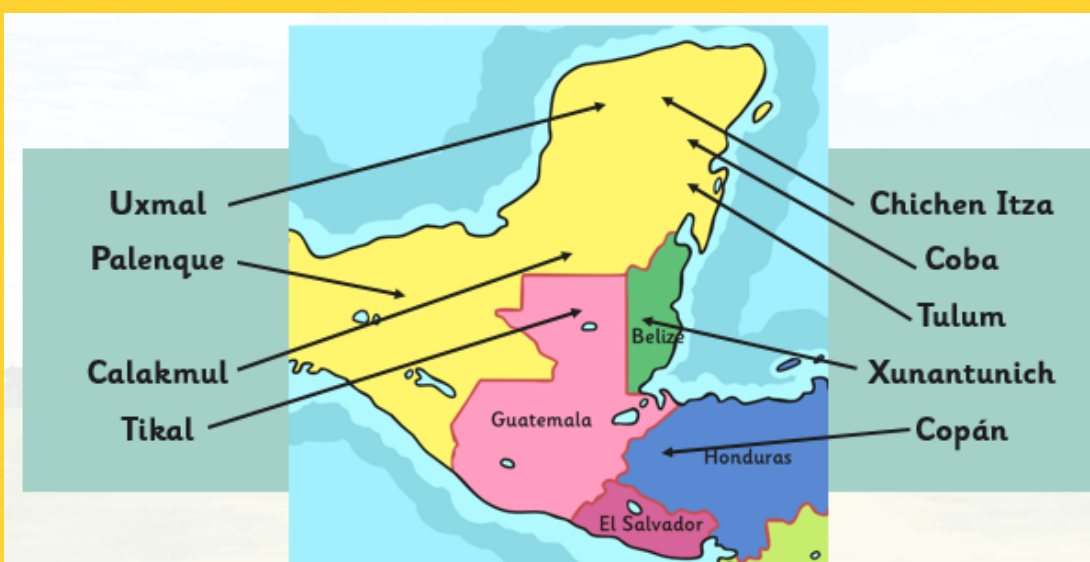
HISTORY

Where was Ancient Maya?



Mesoamerica refers to an area where a number of societies had been formed before the Spanish arrived in the 16th century. Mesoamerica' can also refer to the culture of the people who lived there. The Maya lived in the south east of this area.

The ancient Maya lived in a region that today includes Guatemala, Belize, the Yucatán Peninsula (Mexico) and the western portions of Honduras and El Salvador.



What did they eat?

The Maya farmed maize (corn) which made up 80% of their diet. Other foods they ate included: beans, squash, chilli, tomatoes, sweet potato, pumpkin, avocados, papayas, honey and turkey. Cocoa was particularly important for making hot chocolate.

How did they trade?

The Maya had an extensive trade network which extended from Mexico to South America. They traded mostly by canoe as the wheel was never invented there! They traded important materials like salt, cotton and cacao.

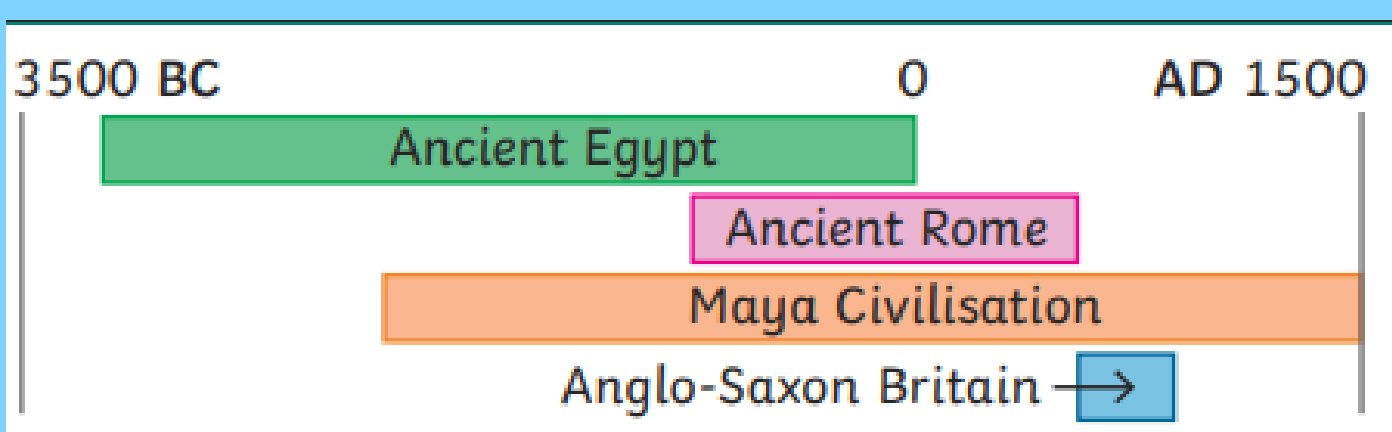
What were their beliefs?

The ancient Maya people believed in a pantheon (large group) of gods. Some took human form, others animal, and some were phenomena of nature. They had different roles. For example, Itzamna was creator of writing.

When was the rise and fall of the Maya civilisation?

- 1100BC** - First Maya settlements appear along the Pacific coast
- 800BC** - Maize farming begins, leading to trade between villages
- 700BC** - Maya writing develops using heiroglyphs
- 100BC** - City states start to develop which contain pyramids for rituals
- 250AD to 800AD** - Maya society booms. Lots of people live in wealthy cities. Nobles, priests and farmers live in the cities together. Traders, artisans and officials create a middle class. The calendar, writing and astronomy are perfected.
- 800AD to 1502AD** - Slow decline of Maya society. Cities are abandoned and ruling class is eventually overthrown. The Maya people revert to living in tribes with local chiefs.
- 1524AD to 1546AD** - The Maya are conquered by the Spanish. Their superior weaponry decimates Maya warriors and new diseases kill many of the population.

Other **civilisations** we've learned about:



How does the Maya calendar differ to ours?

The Maya calendar was actually two calendars that created a 52 year cycle. The **Haab** was made up of 365 days split into 18 months of 20 days with a 5 day month of unlucky days at the end. The **Tzolkin** had 20 day names and 13 numbers to give a total of 260 unique days.

Key Vocabulary

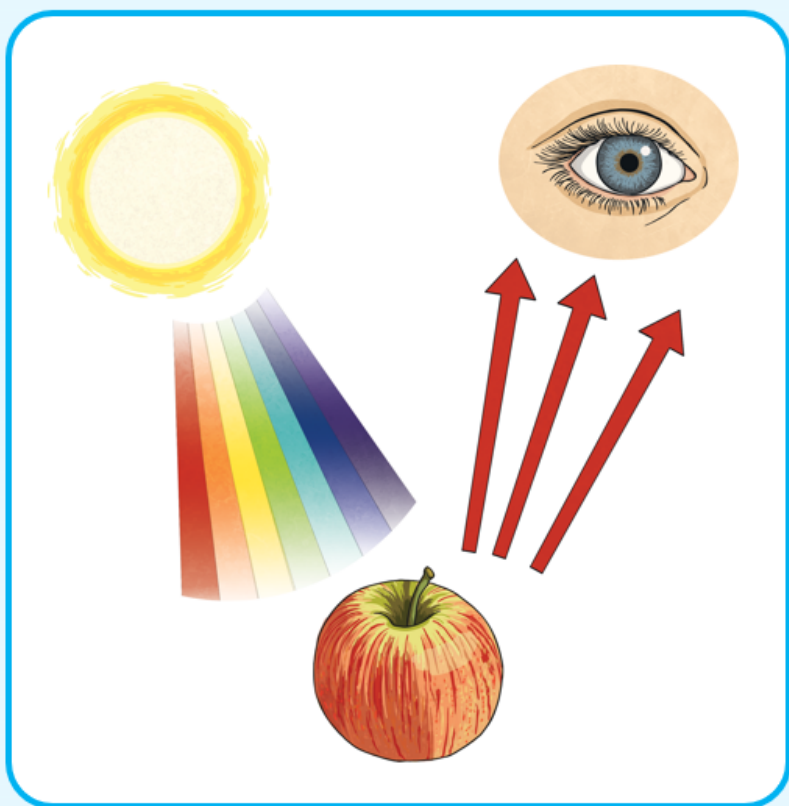
| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Ancient Maya | Conquerors |
| Maize (corn) | Civilisation |
| Trade | Locations: |
| Canoe | Central America |
| Cocoa | Chichen-Itza |
| Pantheon | Copan |
| Calendar | Tikal |
| Haab | Uxmal |
| Tzolkin | Yucatan Peninsula |

What did we learn in Year 3?

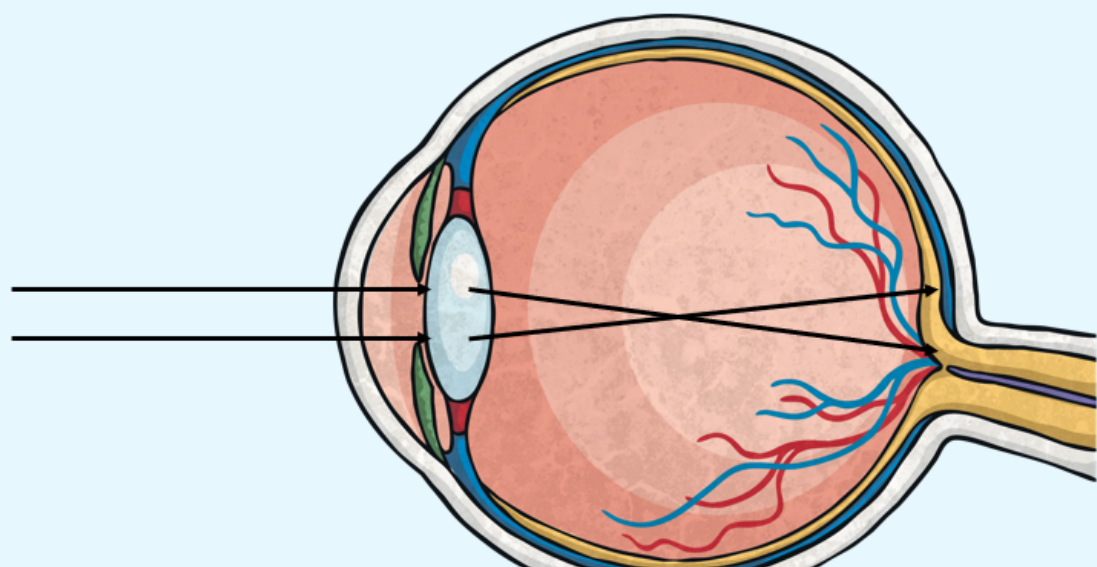
- We need light in order to see things and darkness is the absence of light.
- Light is reflected from surfaces and some materials reflect light better than others.
- Light from the Sun can be dangerous and there are ways to protect our eyes.
- Shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by an opaque object
- There are patterns in the way that the size of shadows change.

How do we see?

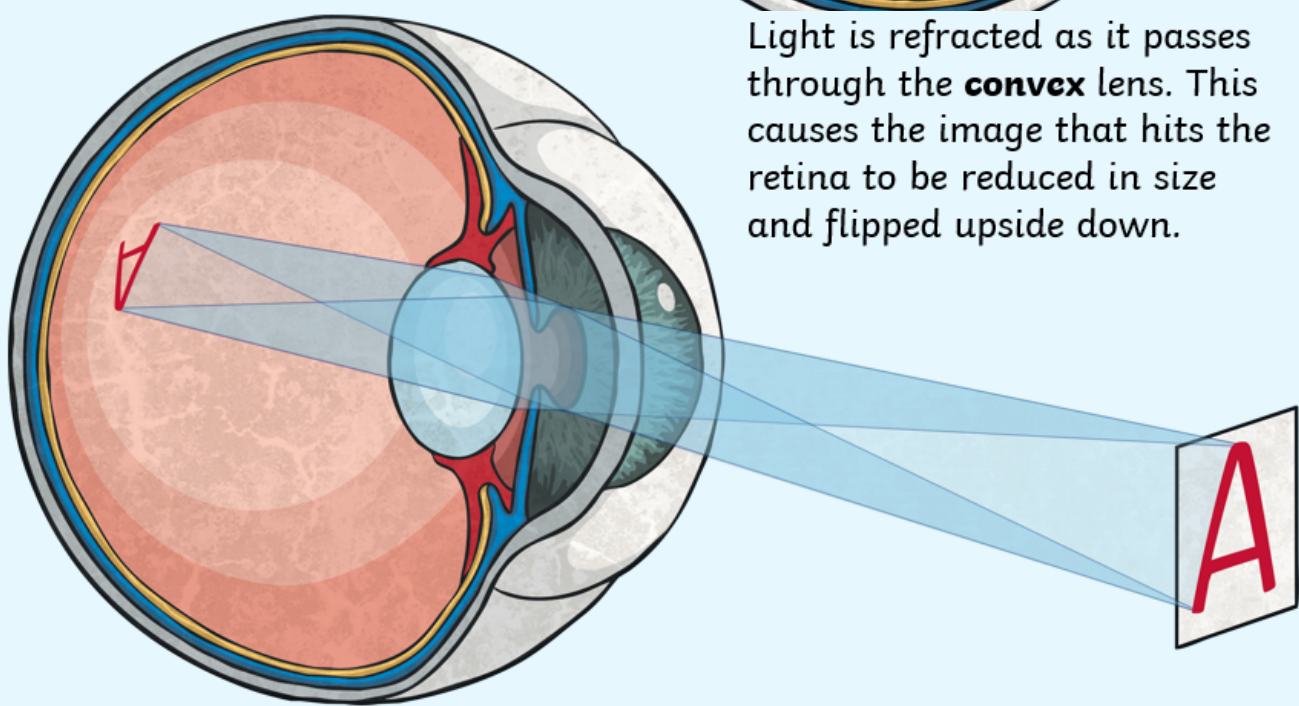
Light reflects off an object, enters the cornea of the eye and passes the pupil.



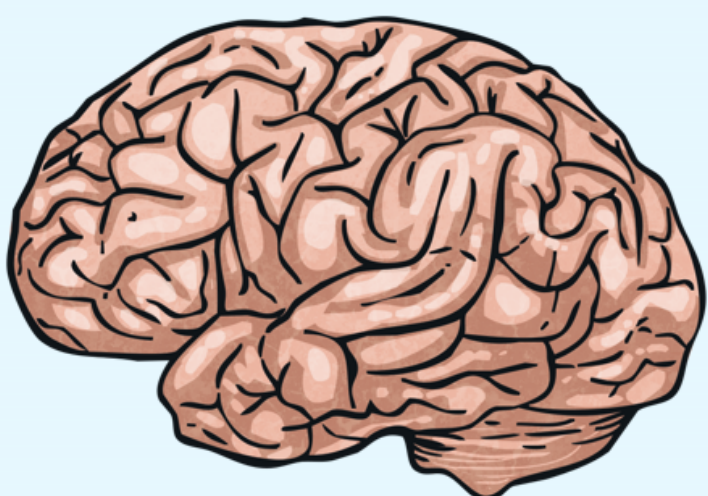
The lens then focuses the light on to the retina.



Light is refracted as it passes through the **convex** lens. This causes the image that hits the retina to be reduced in size and flipped upside down.



The optic nerve transmits visual information from the retina to the brain. This information is carried in tiny electrical signals along the nerve cells (also called neurones).



Once the electrical signals reach the brain, brain cells in the visual cortex can process the image, turning it the correct way round.

What's inside our eye?

Cornea (is convex, transparent and allows light to enter the eye)

Lens (is transparent and biconvex. The lens focuses light onto the retina)

Pupil (a hole through which light passes to enter the eye)

Iris (contracts and relaxes to control the amount of light entering the eye)

Ciliary muscle (can change the shape of the lens to help focus light on the retina)

Retina (the lining of the back of eye which contains light receptors)

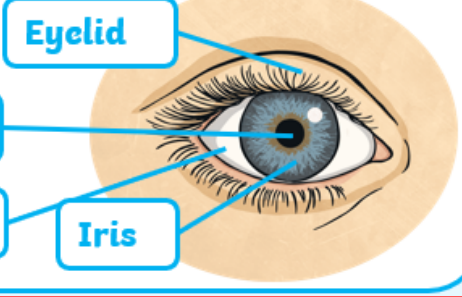
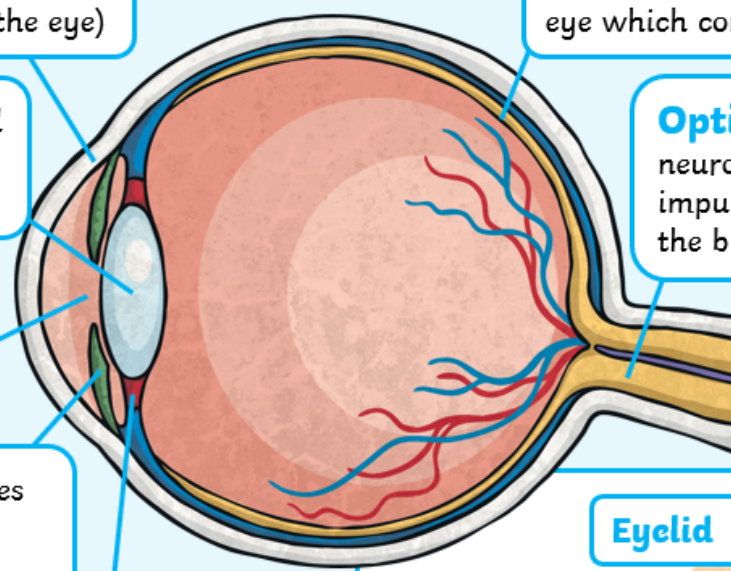
Optic nerve (bundles of neurones which carry impulses from the eye to the brain)

Eyelid

Pupil

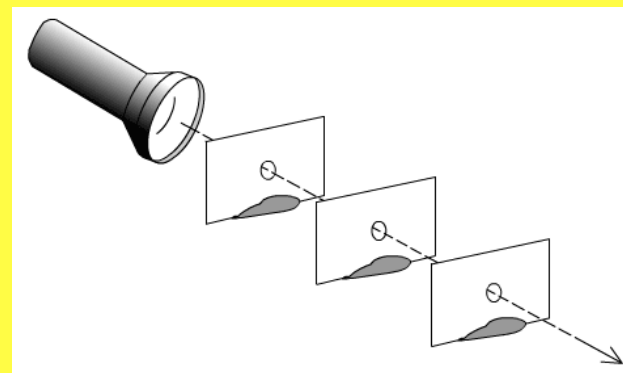
Sclera

Iris



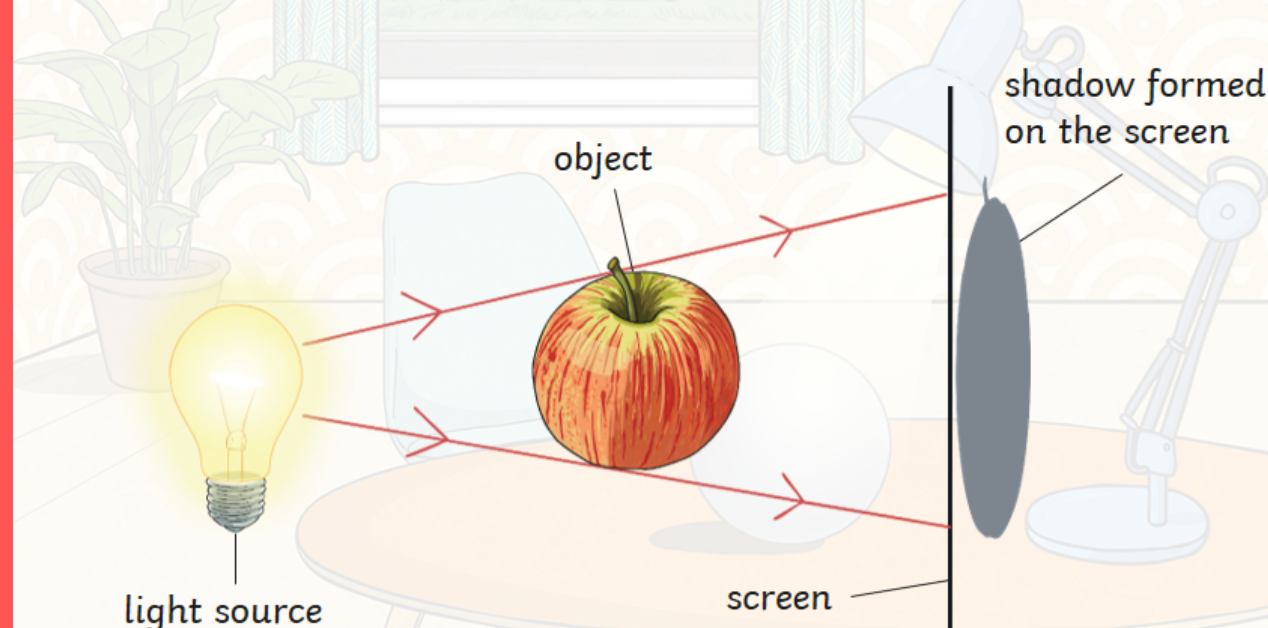
How does light travel?

Light leaves a light source and travels in a straight line.



How are shadows formed?

Shadows are created when a source of light shines on an object but the light is blocked and does not pass through it.



Key Vocabulary

Light Light source Shadow Eye Pupil
Iris Lens Cornea Retina Optic nerve