

Geography Key Knowledge

- ◆ Mexico is located in the south of the continent of North America.
- ◆ It has a diverse landscape that includes mountains, rivers, rainforests and deserts. This means that its climate is also very varied and there are a wide range of plants and animals found there, including many types of cacti and over 700 species of reptile.
- ◆ The capital city is called Mexico City and it is home to nearly nine million people. It is a vibrant, diverse city with a rich cultural heritage.



A map of Mexico

The Mexican flag



A typical Mexican desert

Vocabulary

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Mexico | climate |
| Mexico City | culture |
| desert | landscape |
| mountain | diverse |
| rainforest | culture |
| river | region |
| tourism | |
| gulf | |
| borders | |

History: Key Knowledge

- The Maya were a group of indigenous people who lived in Mexico and other parts of Central America over 3000 years ago.
- The Maya were experts in farming, pottery, writing and maths.
- Around 900 AD, the Maya civilisation began to decline; people moved into small villages rather than staying in the great cities they had built.
- The Maya had their own calendar system that was based on their understanding of maths and astronomy.
- The Maya played a popular ball game called *ulama*.

El Castillo is a Mayan temple in Chichen Itza



One of Frederick Catherwood's drawings



It is believed that the Maya invented chocolate

Vocabulary

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Maya | settlement |
| civilisation | <i>ulama</i> |
| heritage | <i>pok-ta-pok</i> |
| indigenous | cacao |
| Chichen Itza | pyramid |
| El Castillo | |
| deity | |
| glyphs | |
| temple | |

Design and Technology: Key Knowledge

- ◆ Mexican people celebrate many different festivals and special days across the year. They are a central part of Mexican culture and many involve music, dancing, special clothes, food and drink.
- ◆ Two popular festivals include:
 - Dia de la Independencia (Independence Day) celebrates the start of the fight for Mexico's independence from Spain in 1810.
 - Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is celebrated during the first two days of November. It is a positive celebration to



Lots of fruits grow in Mexico due to its tropical climate.

Vocabulary

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| cooking | seasonality |
| nutrition | availability |
| healthy | instructions |
| ingredients | consumer |
| recipe | dietary needs |
| hygienic | |
| measurements | |

Art and Design Key Knowledge

- ◆ Frida Kahlo was a Mexican painter known for her many portraits, self-portraits and works inspired by the nature and artefacts of Mexico.
- ◆ Skeletons are a constant emblem during Day of the Dead. The skull toys and images are called calacas and are used to introduce children to the idea of death without scaring them.



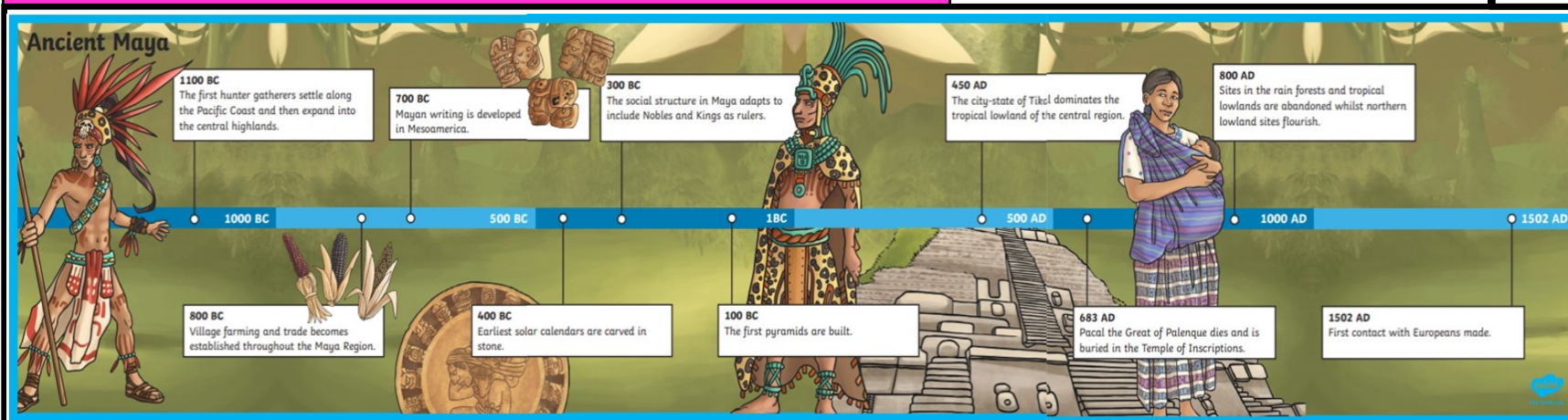
A self-portrait by Frida Kahlo (1940)

Day of the Dead artwork



Vocabulary

| | |
|----------|------------|
| portrait | bold |
| pattern | subtle |
| line | dramatic |
| shape | vibrant |
| layering | expression |



Scan this to find out more about the Maya Civilization.