

Timeline of events

Around 2000BE - Farming villages appear.

1000BCE- Larger settlements are created.

700 BCE - Mayan writing begins to develop.

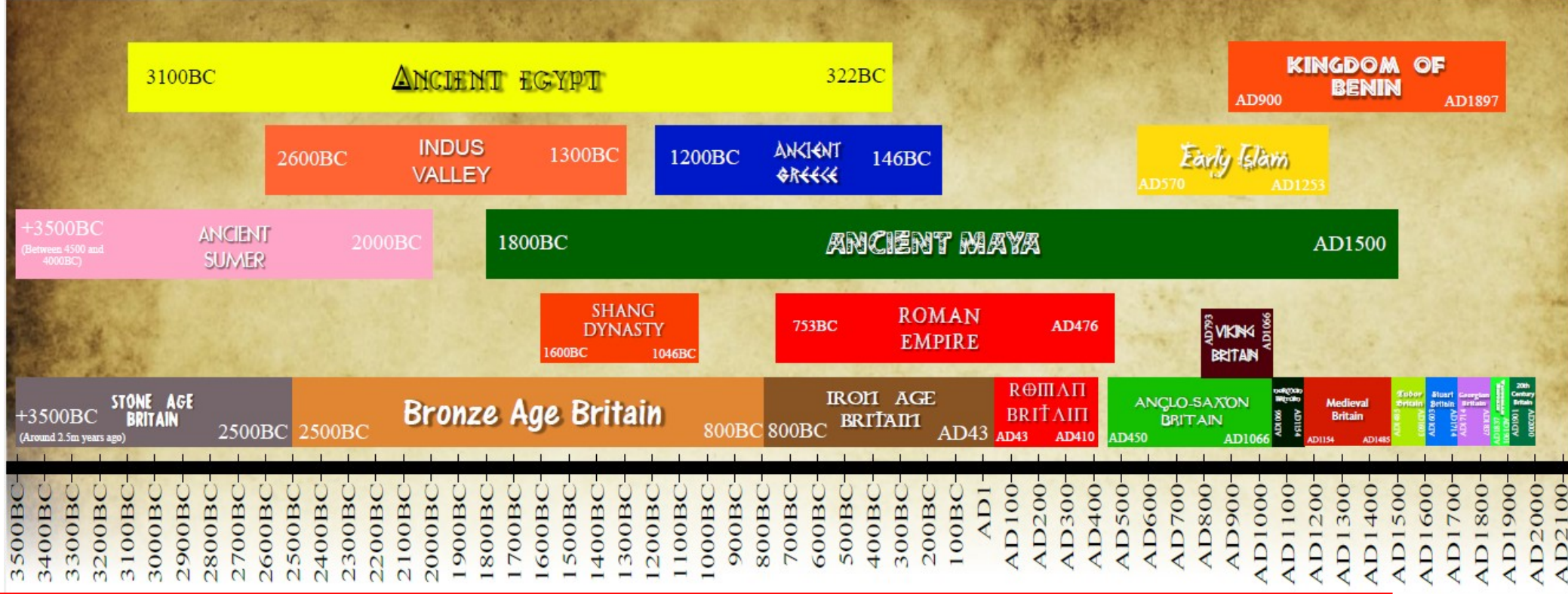
300BCE - Cities become large and powerful.

100BCE - First pyramids are built.

AD 400- Chichen Itza is a large and thriving city (it later becomes the capital city).

AD 900 Cities in the rainforest start to be abandoned due to extensive drought. People move to the highlands of Guatemala and the Yucatan.

AD 1517—The Spanish arrive and begin their colonization of South America (conquistadors).



The Maya Civilisation



| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Mesoamerica | A historical region in Central America extending approximately from central Mexico through Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and El Salvador. |
| Civilisation | An advanced organisation of people living in larger settlements. |
| Hieroglyphics | Writing consisting of symbols or pictures. |
| Pyramids | A monumental structure with a square base sloping to a point at the top. |
| Ritual | A religious or solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a set order. |
| Sacrifice | The killing of an animal or human as an offering to please the gods. |
| Vigesimal number system. | The Maya number system was based on the number 20. |
| Cacao | Pods from the cacao tree were used to make chocolate. |
| Maize | 80% of the Maya diet consisted of maize (corn). |
| Pok-a-tok | A game where large rubber balls were aimed at stone hoops. |

Key Knowledge.

Who were the Mayans and where did they live?

The ancient Mayans lived in what is now known as **southern Mexico** and northern Central America including **Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, Yucatán Peninsula and El Salvador**. Their descendants still live there today, and many of them speak the Mayan languages.

Who were the Mayans and were they an advanced civilisation?

The Ancient Mayans were the longest standing civilisation around for over 3000 years. They developed an advanced number system and writing system.

What was life like for the Ancient Maya?

Mayan adults worked as **farmers, warriors, hunters, builders, teachers** and many other things. Children from noble families could learn maths, science, writing and astronomy, but poorer children were only taught their parents' jobs.

What do we know of the rituals carried out by the Ancient Mayan civilisation?

Mayans engaged in many rituals, one being the game of Pok-a-tok (a ball game) but the main ritual being sacrificial, following their religion, worshipping many gods.

What caused the Mayan Civilisation to disappear?

Scholars have suggested a number of potential **reasons** for the downfall of **Maya civilization** in the southern lowlands, including overpopulation, environmental degradation, warfare, shifting trade routes and extended drought. ... What is certain is that the **Mayans** didn't **disappear** in the aftermath of the collapse.