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| **Key Vocabulary****UKS2****Maya Civilisation** |
| civilisation | An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time. |
| drought | A long period with very little rain. |
| ritual | A ceremony, often religious, with set actions performed in a set order. |
| jaguar | A big cat, heavier than a leopard, with yellowish fur and black spots. |
| scribes | People paid to write things down, either as an official record or for someone else unable to write. |
| codices | Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex. |
| maize | Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas. |
| cacao beans | Cacao trees sprout pods directly from their trunks. When they are ripe, the pods can be broken open to reveal the beans, which can then be dried, roasted and ground. |

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