



YEAR 5 AUTUMN VOCABULARY LIST – HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

History Key Vocabulary – The Mayans

- Religion:** Belief in and worship a superhuman controlling power.
- Cultural:** Ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a society.
- Political:** Government or public affairs of a country.
- Civilisation:** Human social and cultural development.
- Pyramid:** Monumental structure with a square or triangular base and sloping sides that meet in a point at the top.
- Temple:** Building devoted to the worship of a god or gods.
- Evidence:** Facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.
- Archaeology:** Excavation of sites and the analysis of artefacts.
- Sacrifice:** Act of slaughtering an animal or person as an offering to a god.
- Meso-America:** Historical region and cultural area in southern North America and most of Central America.
- Nobles:** A person ranked immediately below royalty.
- Conquistadors:** Spanish soldiers who invaded Mexico and Peru.
- Glyphs:** Hieroglyphic character or symbol.
- Agriculture:** The growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products.
- Astronomy:** Study of the Universe, including planets and stars.
- Calendar:** Days, weeks and months of a particular year.
- Trade:** Buy and sell goods.
- Theory:** ideas intended to explain something.
- Conquer:** Take control by military force.
- Codex:** An ancient manuscript text in book form.
- Pagan:** A person who worships nature or the earth.
- Scribe:** A person who copies out documents.
- Significance:** Something of importance.

Geography Key Vocabulary – South America: The Amazon

- Amazon:** A vast region that spans nine countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana and Suriname, as well as French Guiana.
- Amazon River:** The longest river in South America. It flows through Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Brazil
- Amazon river basin:** Part of South America, drained by the Amazon river and all of its tributaries.
- Climate:** Weather patterns in a place over a long period, such as seasonal rainfall, sunshine and temperatures
- Continent, country, region:** An area that is defined by certain unifying characteristics, which may be physical, human, or cultural.
- Continent:** Land mass defined by physical, human, or cultural features: Europe, Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Oceania, North America or South America
- Compass points:** Points on a magnetic compass marking the four main directions – **North, South, East, West**
- Deforestation:** The clearing and cutting down of forests.
- Ecosystem:** The living things (plants and animals) that are living in a certain area.
- Equator:** imaginary line/circle of latitude around the Earth, midway between North and South Poles, dividing the Earth into Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The equator lies at 0° latitude: at midday the Sun is always high in the sky.
- Fallow:** Land that is not planted with crops, in order to improve the quality of the soil.
- Forest:** Large area covered with trees
- Human features:** Man-made characteristics such as roads, houses, buildings, canals, cities, factories and harbours.
- Indigenous:** Existing naturally or having always lived in that place; native
- Lines of Latitude:** Horizontal lines circle the Earth from east to west. They are the same distance apart.
- Lines of Longitude:** Vertical lines run north and south. They are not equal distances apart.
- Nomad:** A member of a people that travels from place to place to find fresh pasture for its animals and has no permanent home.
- Physical features:** Naturally occurring characteristics such as cliffs, beaches, mountains, seas and rivers.
- Protect:** Aim to preserve by keeping safe from harm.
- Rainforest:** A dense forest rich in biodiversity found typically in tropical areas with consistently heavy rainfall.
- River:** a natural watercourse, flowing towards the sea, an ocean or a lake
- Source:** The original point where a river begins
- Sustainable:** to develop a sustainable future you need to think about meeting today's needs and protecting the environment and resources for the future.
- Weather:** Conditions in the atmosphere on a particular day, such as temperature, windiness, rainfall, hours of sunshine or cloud cover.