

Year 4/5 A Where were the Mayans?

Key Vocabulary

Latitude	To help locate where a place is in the world people use imaginary lines. To find out how far north or south a place is, lines of latitude are used. These lines run parallel to the equator.
Longitude	To find out how far east or west a place is, lines of longitude are used. These lines run from the top of the earth to the bottom.
Prime Meridian	Is the imaginary line which divides Earth into two equal parts (the Eastern and Western Hemispheres). It is the basis for the world's time zones. It is the starting point for the measuring system called longitude and is labelled 0 degrees longitude.
Climate Zones	The Earth has 5 climate zones which are desert, equatorial, polar, temperate and tropical.
Biome	Biomes are areas of our planet with similar climates, landscapes, animals and plants. What lives in each biome depends on: how warm or cold it is, how dry or wet it is and how fertile the soil is.



The Prime Meridian and lines of longitude. The Prime Meridian runs through London. It is sometimes called the Greenwich Meridian. Anything to the east of it is in the Eastern Hemisphere. Anything to the west is in the Western Hemisphere.



Time Zones. Time in countries to the east of the Prime Meridian is always in front of that in the UK. Time in countries to the west of the Prime Meridian is always behind that of the UK. The world is divided into 24 different time zones. One for each hour in a day.

Time in different parts of the world. The USA has 6 time zones. If it is 11:00 in Billingham it is 06:00 in New York, 03:00 in Los Angeles. It would be 04:00 in Mexico City. It would be 21:00 in Sydney Australia.

Mexico

Mexico has a population of around 130 million people. Mexico City has a population of 9 million people.

Much of Mexico is covered by mountains. The north of the country is dominated by deserts, and these regions receive so little rain that only a few specially adapted plants and animals can survive. The south of Mexico is close to the equator so it has a tropical climate, and is covered by vast rainforests with a huge diversity of plants and animals.

Types of Biomes

Tropical rainforests are hot and wet all year round. Deserts are hot and dry all year round. The savannah is hot all year round with a long, dry season. Grasses and shrubs grow here. Woodlands are habitats where the main plants found are trees. The climate is warm and mild with more rain falling in winter than summer. Grasslands are areas of land that are vast and open, with grasses being the main plants. The largest grasslands are found in East Africa. The tundra is the coldest biome. Temperatures are freezing.

