



UKS2 Geography Knowledge Organiser - Riches of the Rainforest

Key Knowledge and Skills

Central America: Now and Then



Central America is generally considered part of the continent of North America, but is often referred to as its own region. Central America is a narrow **isthmus** (narrow strip of land) that is bordered by North America and the Gulf of Mexico to the north and by South America to the south. To the east of Central America is the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean is to the west. There are seven countries that are considered part of Central America: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

Over the years the Maya created many kingdoms and small empires in what is now South-Eastern Mexico and some smaller countries in Central America.



Trade and Trade Routes



The Maya relied on trade and they obtained a wide range of goods. Some were localised within geographic zones such as the highland valley. Some of their trade was far distances which connected different environmental zones. The top three important trading routes were the southern route, the central route and the northern route. These routes helped tie the Mayan area together. The Mayans primarily traded within their own empire, though they did have some external trade.

Key Vocabulary

Word	Definition
Maya Civilisation	The Maya civilization was one of the most dominant Indigenous societies of Mesoamerica.
Continent	One of Earth's major land masses.
Central America	A subregion of North America. It consists of seven countries: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.
Vegetation Belts	A vegetation belt is an area with distinct plant types, determined by climate, soil, drainage and elevation.
Physical Geography	Physical geography is the study of Earth's seasons, climate, atmosphere, soil, streams, landforms, and oceans.
Human Geography	Physical geography is the study of Earth's seasons, climate, atmosphere, soil, streams, landforms, and oceans.
Trade	The action of buying and selling goods
Trade Routes	A long-distance route along which commercial goods are transported
Farming	The activity or business of growing crops and raising livestock.
Agriculture	The practice of farming, including monitoring soil and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products.



What is a biome?

A biome is a natural area of plants and animals. The world is divided into lots of different biomes and they are all different depending on their climate. The rainforest is a specific type of biome. The rainforest was important to the Maya because it was home to living things that supported Maya civilization. Of course, it was also their home. The rainforest continues to be important to all of us. While tropical rainforests cover less than 6% of the earth's surface area, they are home to 50% of its plant and animal species, many found nowhere else on the planet. Often described as the lungs of the planet, our rainforests are currently disappearing at the rate of 100 acres every minute.



