



Vocabulary

The Vikings	WW2	The Mayans
<p>Scandinavia- Norway, Sweden and Denmark</p> <p>Explorers- people who travel to a new place to discover what is there</p> <p>Colonised- settled in a place</p> <p>Evidence- proof, information showing whether something is true</p> <p>Raid- enter a place to steal something.</p>	<p>Communism- a political belief system</p> <p>Significant- important</p> <p>Influences- effects on what people say or do</p> <p>Decades- periods of ten years</p> <p>Evacuated- removed from a dangerous place</p>	<p>Abandoned- left for a long time</p> <p>Overpopulation- too many people</p> <p>Uninhabitable- cannot be lived in</p> <p>Traditions- customs that have existed for a long time</p> <p>Irrigation- supplying land with water</p> <p>Terracing- steps built into sloping land</p>

The Vikings



The Vikings, from **Scandinavia**, were excellent **sailors**, **explorers** and **warriors**. They colonised large parts of Europe between **790 and 1100 CE** and were involved in a long and bloody battle with the **Anglo-Saxons** for control of Britain. Also known as **Norsemen** (men from the north), the Vikings belonged to many different clans, led by chiefs who ruled over the lands they had conquered. After battles, the Vikings often forced local rulers to pay a tribute called **Danegeld** (meaning large amount of money that had to be paid so that the Vikings would not attack the locals and destroy their

WW2

The Second World War was the most deadly **conflict** the world has ever seen. It brought into opposition the countries of the **Allies** (France, Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union) and the **Axis powers** (Germany, Italy and Japan). By the end of the conflict, approximately **50 million people** had been killed, and the political and social organisation of the world was changed forever. The end of the war saw **Communism** growing in the east and a significant shift in power towards the United States in the west. The Second World War is one of the most **significant** events in history, and its influences are still felt in daily life today.

The Mayans



The Maya are **native Americans** of Central America, who built a great **civilisation** in the **tropical rainforest** that lasted for over **2000 years**. The earliest Maya **settlements** were built in about **1800 BCE**. The golden age of the Maya was between **250 and 900 CE**. At its peak, the civilisation was made up of 40 great cities and almost 2 million people. The Maya people became expert **mathematicians** and were skilful **astronomers and architects**. Suddenly, in around 900, many of these significant Maya settlements were abandoned. No one is quite sure why, but it is possible that changes in the climate or overpopulation made the cities uninhabitable. The Maya still live in the same areas of Central America today, continuing many of their historical traditions.