

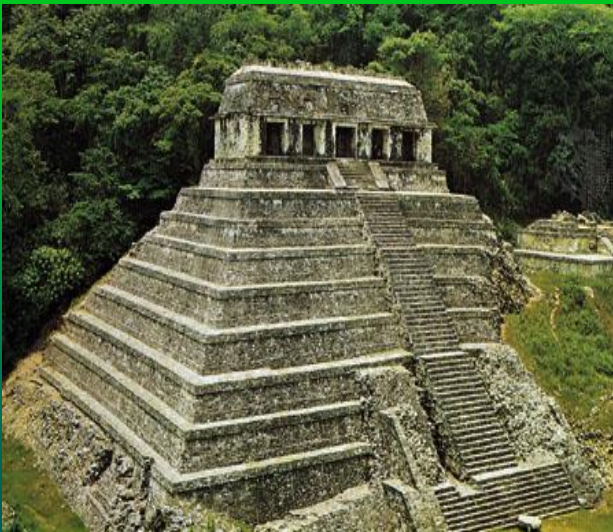
Mayan civilization

Mayan Architecture

- Of all the objects created by the Maya, the largest most striking are their buildings
- A Maya city from the Classic Period usually consisted of a series of stepped platforms topped by masonry structures, ranging from great temple-pyramids and palaces to individual house mounds.
- Maya architecture is characterized by a sophisticated sense of decoration and art, expressed in bas-relief carvings and wall paintings.
- The buildings were cool, weatherproof, and if not shaded by nearby trees, they lasted many years with very little maintenance



Mayan Architecture cont...



- The Maya used soft limestone that was found in many parts of their land and was relatively easy to quarry and shape.
- If this material was unavailable they would make use of granite, slate, or even river rocks
- Stone temples held the graves of rulers and, occasionally, of others of high rank
- The permanent architecture grew to be an essential part of Maya religious life and a very visible part of the city centre.

Mayan Architecture cont...



the Temple of the Giant Jaguar



The Pyramid of the Magician in Uxmal



The Great Gate at Labna




The Temple of the Sun

Mayan Writing

- Created a complex hieroglyphic system
- Remained almost entirely undeciphered until almost the 1980s
- No clear alphabetic system
- So complex because of the idea of, ideographic, which means the glyphs stand for complete ideas
- Before they were deciphered archaeologists thought them to be purely ceremonial

TABLE 3:1 Logographs Representing Maya Words from Inscriptional Texts

 Balam Jaguar	 Ahaw Lord, ruler	 Ahaw Lord, ruler	 Pakal Shield	 Na Lady	 K'an Yellow, precious
 Hanab Flower	 Na House	 Sak White	 Tun Year, stone	 K'al Twenty	 Witz Mountain
 Chan Sky	 Chan Snake	 Bak Bone, prisoner	 Chum Seated	 Ak'ot To dance	 Hoy To dedicate
 Ch'ul Divine	 Nik Flower	 Tok' Flint	 K'in Day, sun	 Way Co-essence, spirit	 Way Hole, entrance
 Sih Birth	 K'awil God K, image	 Wak Six, raised up	 Hun Book, codex	 Hun One	 Nal Place
 Tan Center	 Kun Seat	 Ek' Black	 Ha'/Nab Water, plaza	 Te' Tree, wood	 K'uk' Quetzal

Mayan Writing

- Maya wrote using 800 individual signs or glyphs, paired in columns that read together from left to right and top to bottom
- Once deciphered the glyphs told us much about the way of life, like rituals city-states and way of life
- Most writing written on stelae buildings, portable sculptures, and pottery vessels few was written in books
- The pottery often tells us where they were made, for whom, and by whom



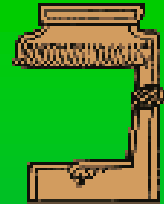
the sky



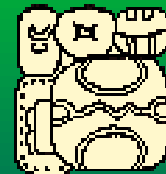
a king



a child



a house



the city of Palenque

Mayan Writing

- Reasons Why Hieroglyphics Hard To Decipher
- Glyphs can represent sounds and ideas or both
- Maya glyphs can have more than one meaning
- Maya concepts can be written in more than one way.



Tablet of the 96 Glyphs, in the at Palenque. This is considered one of the most beautiful inscriptions ever carved by the Maya.

Mayan Medicine

Ancient Mayan medicine was an effective and simple way to maintain a healthy society. Massages were thought to be the remedy for every illness or disease. The givers of these massages would have been called Shaman's, they held knowledge of medicine passed from generations before.

- Plants were used to create tea which would cure headaches, skin irritations and other wounds.
- During colonial times, Mayan people became infected with unknown diseases that the Shamans had to provide remedies for.



Mayan Medicine

- A crucial part of Mayan healing had to concern with the sauna.
- Ancient Mayans believed that sweating would heal the body, therefore creating the first saunas.
- When the Spanish people arrived in Maya, they brought infectious diseases that the Mayan people did not have a remedy for. Therefore the health profession flourished.
- Broken bones did not have a remedy therefore were either amputated or ignored.

