

The Mayans

A large stone pyramid with a staircase, likely a Mayan temple, set against a dramatic, cloudy sky at sunset or sunrise. The pyramid is the central focus, with its stone blocks showing signs of weathering. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright glow behind the pyramid, suggesting the sun is low on the horizon. The overall mood is mysterious and ancient.

The Creators of Chocolate

By: Libby Vadnai, Raizel Landman-Feigelson, and
Aaron Faier

Religion

A Few of the Many Gods:

- Ah Puch - The god of death.
- Ah Uuc Tica - A god of the Earth.
- Kinich Ahau- Sun god
- Chaac- The corn god

Facts About Mayan Religion:

- They are mostly based on nature gods
- Had human sacrifice rituals



Economy

- The major Mayan trade products were: gold, jade, obsidian, copper, fish, and grains
- In terms of social classes, most people would farm, and then there were the select few who were higher up
- Trade played a pretty significant role in Mayan society. They often traded peacefully with the neighbors
- They could trade by water, since they were located on two oceans



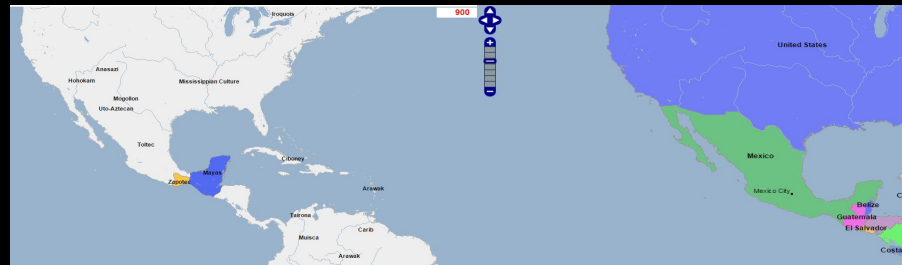
Contributions

CHOCOLATE!

- ◆ **XOCOLATL >> CHOCLAT >> CHOCOLATE!!!!!!!!**
- ◆ **Mayan chocolate was very different than the chocolate we know today**
- ◆ **XOCOLATL was a liquid made from crushed cocoa beans, chili peppers, and water, because there was no sugar in South America**
- ◆ **They poured the liquid from one cup to another until a frothy foam appeared on top**
- ◆ **In fact, the word 'chocolate' is said to come from the Mayan word 'xocolatl' which means 'bitter water'**
- ◆ **It may have been bitter water, but it was held in such high and holy place that Mayans called it the "food of the gods"**
- ◆ **Cocoa was so holy that images of cocoa pods were painted on the walls of stone temples and Mayan artifacts have been found that show kings and Mayan gods drinking chocolate**
- ◆ **Cocoa was often consumed during religious ceremonies and marriage celebrations**
- ◆ **All Mayans could enjoy cocoa, regardless of their social status**

Geography of the Mayans

- The Mayans were located in central Central America
- Today, that is southern Mexico, Guatemala, and northern Belize
- That means that the Mayans had access to three bodies of water: the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and the Pacific Ocean
- Most of the time, there was another civilization near the Mayans, so they were not particularly isolated
- The area that they lived in was pretty wet, so they excelled at farming. They also had lots small of rivers for building cities near



MAYA TIMELINE

Olmec	1200-1000 BCE
Early Preclassic Maya	1800-900 BCE
Middle Preclassic Maya	900-300 BCE
Late Preclassic Maya	300 BCE - CE 250
Early Classic Maya	250-600 CE
Late Classic Maya	600-900 CE
Post Classic Maya	900-1500 CE
Colonial period	1500-1800 CE
Independent Mexico	1821 to the present

Government of the Mayans

- Some of the Mayans had chieftom of every city-state because they were not linked together as a single empire, others were part of a larger political hierarchy
- Most of the city-states had trade routes between them, but some did not
- Towards the end, the Mayans were united under one government with nine states. Each of the Maya states had a supreme military commander called a nacom



Rise and Fall

The Fall

- ★ Around A.D. 900 Mayan civilization disappeared
- ★ Two new studies examine the reasons for the collapse of the Mayan culture, finding the Mayans themselves contributed to the downfall of the empire
- ★ Scientists think that they disappeared because of drought and they cut down trees to make cities

Rise and Fall

The Rise

- ★ In the Americas the Mayans came first
- ★ The Mayans were the first major and complex civilization to develop in the Americas
- ★ They lived in the Yucatán Peninsula and surrounding areas, including Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua

Intermission!!!!!!



Writing

- ❖ **Mayan writing is considered sophisticated by archaeologists**
- ❖ **The writing used 800 signs**
- ❖ **Wrote on paper made from ficus trees**
- ❖ **With brushes made from animal hair and quills**
- ❖ **Mayans used writing only to record history like marriages, births, and victories**



Art and Architecture

- **The earliest Mayan artists were primarily focused on religious themes**
- **At this time, the Mayans depicted such activities as human sacrifice, warfare, daily life, and religious rituals with startling realism**
- **All of the great Mayan cities created great sculptures**
- **Sculptors produced amazing images of mythological creatures, deceased rulers, deities, and supernatural animals**



Art and Architecture Continued

- All of the great Mayan cities created great sculptures
- Sculptors produced amazing images of mythological creatures, deceased rulers, deities, and supernatural animals
- Lords and rulers were attired in elaborate headdresses, costumes, and jewelry



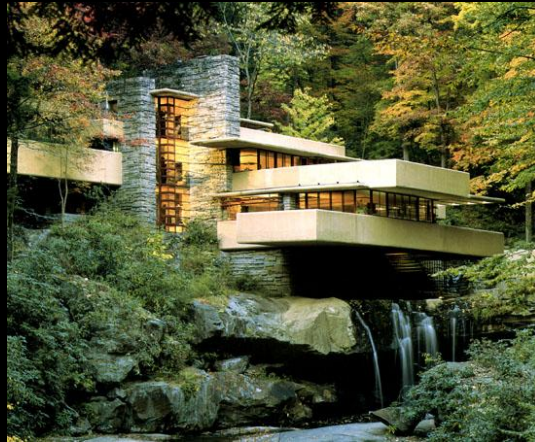
Art and Architecture Continued Some More

- **Mayan sculptors preferred to work with limestone**
- **Sculpturing embellished Mayan temples, monuments, and buildings**
- **However, they also worked with trachyte, sandstone, wood, and clay**
- **They did this with nothing more than stone tools and wooden mallets**
- **Maya architecture would inspire the Toltec civilization and Aztecs, especially at the noted centres of Xochicalco, Chichen Itza, Mitla, and Tenochtitlan**



Art and Architecture: It's not Over Yet

- **Maya architecture would inspire the Toltec civilization and Aztecs, especially at the noted centres of Xochicalco, Chichen Itza, Mitla, and Tenochtitlan**
- **Maya influence even stretched into the 20th century CE when such noted architects as Frank Lloyd Wright and Robert Stacy-Judd incorporated elements of Maya architecture into their buildings**



Inventions

- Basketball
- Chocolate
- Calendar
- Herbal stuff
- Reservoirs for drought



Slavery

- ❖ Slaves were often orphans because they were easy to take with no one protecting them
- ❖ Not necessarily treated cruelly by masters
- ❖ No rights
- ❖ Only function in society was manual labor
- ❖ The most frequently used for human sacrifice



Golden Age

The Classic Period, which began around 250 C.E., was the golden age of the Maya Empire. Classic Maya civilizations grew to some 40 cities, including Tikal, Uaxactún, Copán, Bonampak, Dos Pilas, Calakmul, Palenque and Río Bec; each city held a population of between 5,000 and 50,000 people. At its peak, the Maya population may have reached 2,000,000.





Thank You for Watching!

This Presentation is brought to you by the Denver Broncos

