

ANCIENT MAYAN CIVILIZATION

Mesoamerica 2000bc-1595 ce

Cities

Cities held 5000 to 50000 people, were primarily made of limestone, and contained plazas, courts for playing games, palaces, and temples. Cities were surrounded by a large population of farmers.



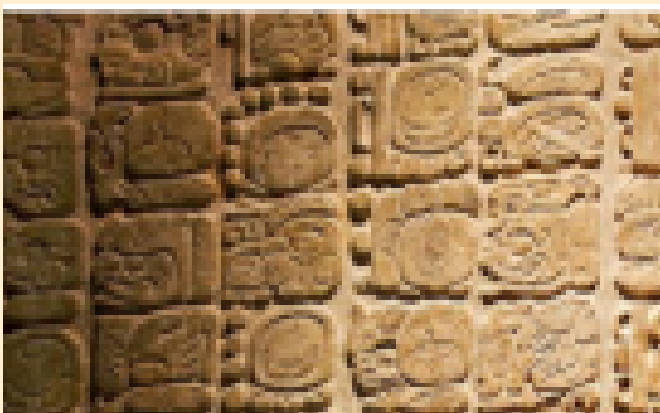
Belief system/Religion

The Mayans had a polytheist religion that worshipped more than 165 gods. The Mayans built many pyramids not unlike the Egyptians as tombs for royalty and for worshipping gods. Human sacrifice was very common.



Writing

The Mayans had the most advanced writing system in all of Mesoamerica. Each square can hold up to five glyphs. Only three Mayan languages were written down in hieroglyphs: Ch'olan, Tzeltalan, and Yucatec.



Government

The Mayans were ruled by a monarchy, typically with a king at the throne, with dozens of smaller governments ruling portions of the Empire.



Social Structure

Mayan social structure was heavily divided between upper, lower, middle, and lower class. Mayan civilizations had systems for serfs and slaves.



Art

Mayan art was heavily influenced by rulers and divine beings. Materials such as wood, stucco, plaster, stone, etc. were easily supplied and made it easy to mass produce art, murals, and temples.

