

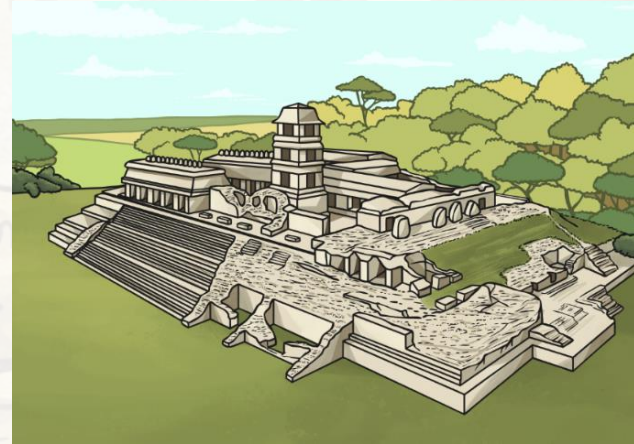
Mayan Art



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Who Were the Maya?

The Maya were a civilization who lived in modern-day Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador. The Maya civilization lasted from around 1000 BC to AD 1697.

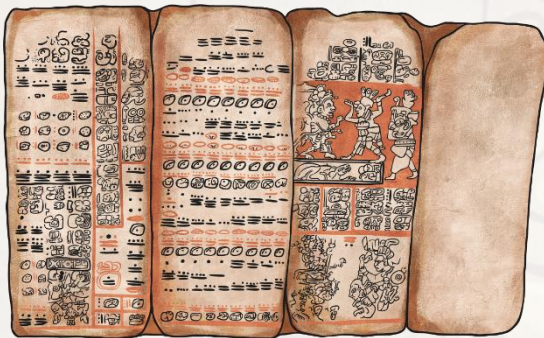


Can you locate the Maya civilization on the map?

[Click here to find it!](#)

Maya Civilization

The Maya created many different types of artwork. Their art depicted their religious beliefs, their way of life, wars they had fought, how they sacrificed people, and their kings. Maya kings had a desire to be remembered and art was the best way they could achieve this.



Sculpture

Many sculptures were made of stone. They were often positioned beside altars. The largest sculpture was discovered in the city of Quirigua. The craftsmen would have used stone chisels and wooden mallets.

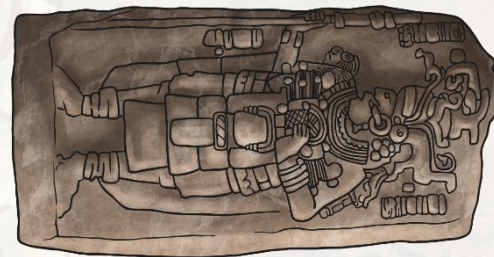
Maya sculptors also worked in limestone, wood, and sandstone.



Ceramics



The Mayas made cooking pots, bowls, jars, and vases from clay. These vessels often had decorative patterns. They painted the vessels in a style called polychrome using a range of colors, such as orange, red, and yellow. The decorations were from Maya mythology and everyday life. These pots are of great importance for archaeologists trying to understand more about the Maya era.



Ceramics

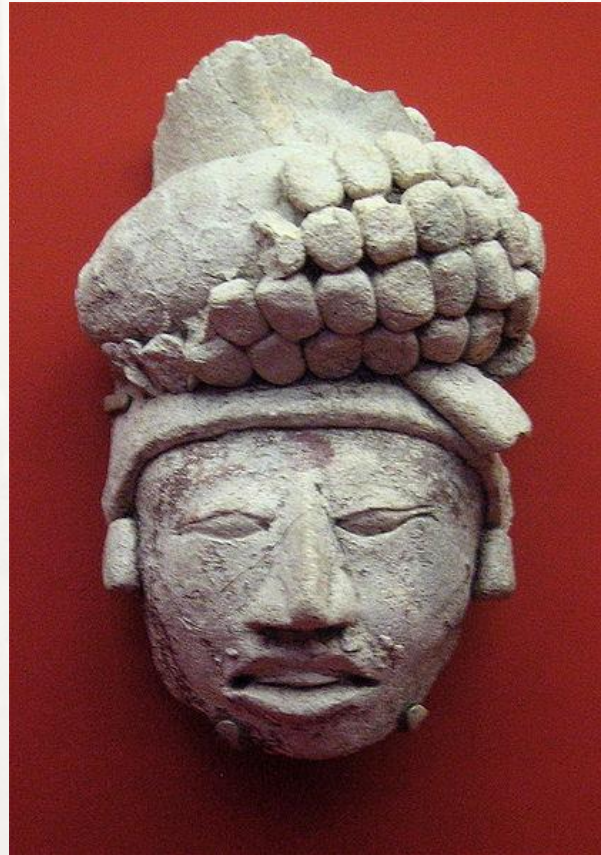


An engraved head



A polychrome urn

Ceramics



The carved head of a nobleman

Frescoes



Frescoes have been discovered on the walls of Maya temples. These frescoes show scenes of daily life, stories, battles, and religious events. The most famous fresco was discovered in Bonampak in Chiapas, Mexico.

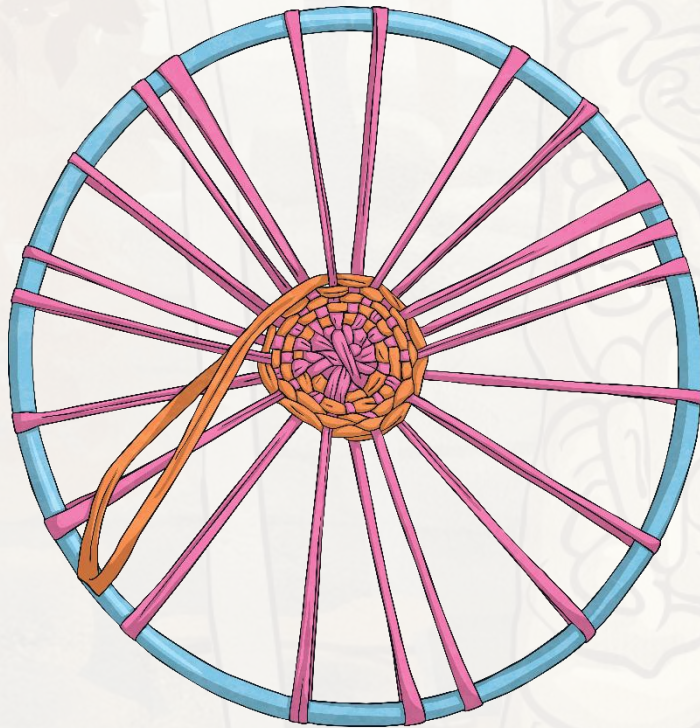
Frescoes

What could you say about the Mayans from this fresco?



Weaving and Feather Work

From the carvings and paintings, archaeologists can say that the Mayans wore large headdresses made from feathers. These were a sign of status with the nobility wearing clothing made from feather too.



Jade Jewelry

Jade was very valuable to the Maya.
Some pendants, necklaces, and engravings were made from jade.



Other Materials

The Mayas also created jewelry from bone.

Metal was used mainly from AD 900. Pots were made from copper, and there is evidence of gold being used to adorn sculptures and for jewelry.



Interesting Facts

Mayan artists sometimes signed their names on their artwork. Mayans used stucco plaster to make huge masks of their gods and kings. Some of the finest and best examples of Maya art have been found in the city of Palenque, Mexico.





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