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Maya: The Blood of the Kings

1) How would you describe the "cultural screen" of the Mayan society as illustrated in this film?

It was a society of around 40,000 people and ruled by a king. They were an advanced society. According to the beginning of the video, their society was considered a utopia. They were peaceful people who worshiped time. They also believed in higher learning. The king was considered their god. They had a hierarchy a ruler and elite people around him. Towards the end of the film we learned that the king was not so peaceful. There were sacrifices of blood made to their god, the king. This meant the mutilation of genitals and body cutting.

2) What were some of the technological innovations of this society? How did they help to define the people & their culture?

They had an independently writing system. It is one of five ever invented in the world. They also had a sophisticated mathematical system which worked in conjunction with their complex system of astronomy. Mayans also had a sophisticated calendar and a system that helped them understand the significance of each day. Because their advance knowledge in astronomy, they were able to predict eclipses. The cycles of the moon according to their calculations are off by 33 seconds of the actual calculation. The creation and the end of times were written in the Mayan calendar. All these advances show us that this culture was advance and knowledgeable.

3) How would you describe the hierarchical system? What responsibilities did each group have to the general welfare of the society?

Their hierarchy had a king which was their god. The king was the one who communicated with their gods and ancestors. The responsibility of each group to make sure they kept their welfare was mainly based in blood sacrifices. A ritual ball game between two groups was even sacrificial as the looser would be sacrificed. Blood sacrifices were powerful and precious. Blood sacrifices also meant that the sun will rise and the crops will grow. Even today the Mayas that are alieve practice sacrifices of chickens.