

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

The Mayan people were said to be self-made and self-contained. For two thousand years, they maintained their unique civilization. The capitol of this society is Guatemala.

The writing system was established by the ancient Mayans helped researchers understand some things about the way they lived. Their mathematics was linked to astronomy and deemed very detailed and accurate. It was said that the Mayans were dedicated to a study of the meaning of times along with what was happening with in the sky. On record, they captured astrological events that took place and illustrations about the gods of the underworld. They drew about a skeletal god who is known for decapitation. They had a paganist religion.

These people build pyramids and sundials. One of their pyramids El Castillo, was built with 365 steps, aligned with every day of the year, and illustrated the timing of the spring equinox.

The Mayan calendar illustrated in hieroglyphics that captured each day of the year and recorded their sacred calendar. Their Priests used the calendar to predict solar eclipse and map out the cycles of the moon. The calendar depicted the beginning and the ending of the ancient Mayan society. They had a vital record system that captured births and deaths.

The society was a monarchy. Murals, and hieroglyphics were found depicting kings and queen and the names of Maya royalties. They had a state system that was ruled by a powerful king name lord Pakal, of the city-state Palenque who ruled for 70 years. The kings ruled with resentment and arrogance.

Paintings and murals were found to have one belief that the Maya men were into warfare. The rulers were deemed merciless and dealt with the people harshly. It is believed that the rulers made ritual sacrifices to the underworld gods, and they were known to draw blood from both ruling king and queen. Blood was drawn from the tongue and genitals from the queen and the king. Royal blood meant it was a sacrifice for power.

Sacrificing of royal blood had the people thinking that the gods will make the corn grow, set the sun to rise and the rain to fall on their land. The Kings blood was said to bound all life together, the people and the gods. The ritual sacrificing of blood was a belief that eternity resides in the blood, and it was the most precious thing one could offer to the gods. Royal blood was seen as being more powerful than anyone else. Their authority was based upon a strong belief in their king because he is the holy lord with the authority to manipulate the universe.

Ancient Mayans were known for some extreme acts and was said to have used drugs such as alcohol which they also used the substance enemas. The Mayans performed blood sacrifices for the future world. They also played games where the loser of the game lost their life as a sacrifice to the gods. The brutality of the bodies being sacrifices was recorded for posterity. In modern time, they sacrifice chickens.

This ancient society began to lose wars to invaders who had better strategies and weapons. They had large areas of land and complex cities that were heavily populated. Their crops couldn't sustain the overpopulated cities. The people thought that the king had failed them. The rituals and sacrifice were no longer working. The people lost faith in the king and began to abandon the cities causing the fall of this society.

