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Film Response

The Mayans had much innovation that they contributed to history. Their ancient civilization was complex, with its own elites (containing scribes, priests, military officials) and other cultural leaders. The religious priests of the day were on the top rung of society, as the Mayans leaned very heavily into the authority of the spiritual realm; along with them were many different kinds of scribes: religious scribes, mathematical scribes, historical scribes. Additionally, the artists of the day (stone workers, potters, etc.) contributed much to the cultural climate and religious practices of the day. Underneath these elites there were the commoners of society (equivalent to middle/working class), and even lower were some poor farmers, slaves, and the like. These people were the ones who did the brunt of the manual labor and servitude occupations.

Of the many revolutionary discoveries of this group, one of the most sophisticated Mayan innovations were their discovered astrological observations and the records that they took. The Mayans saw the heavens and celestial bodies from a spiritually significant lens and dedicated themselves to studying space and time. One of the most amazing things that the Mayans were able to do was to predict astrological events of the past based on their developed mathematical systems – how amazing!