

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

The Mayan cultural screen was a rich and diverse people that encompassed a wide range of beliefs, practices and traditions. It played a crucial role in shaping their society and way of life and continues to influence contemporary Maya culture to this day. The Mayan civilization was one of the most advanced ancient societies in the Americas.

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

Some of their technological innovations were their advanced knowledge in the areas of astronomy and mathematics for which they are world famous. The Maya were skilled astronomers, their calendar system was among the most accurate in the world at the time. They also developed a sophisticated system of hieroglyphic writing.

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

The Mayan culture was marked by a strong emphasis on social hierarchy and status. The ruling class held great power and wealth. Their position was reinforced by elaborate ceremonies and rituals that affirmed their authority. They earned their dominance within the society through enormous personal sacrifice of blood rituals where they offered up their "sacred" blood for the prosperity of the people. At the same time, there was a complex system of social classes and

occupations with different levels of status and privilege. All classes were expected to offer the spiritual currency of blood sacrifice for the good of the nation. This was part of the Mayan religious belief system. They believed in a complex pantheon of gods and goddesses who controlled various aspects of their lives, such as agriculture, hunting and fertility. They also believed in an underworld and an afterlife and placed great importance on rituals and sacrifices to appease them. These rites were often brutal and bloody.