

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

In "The Blood of the Kings" documentary, the Mayan cultural screen is depicted as a complex system of beliefs, practices, and social structures that governed every aspect of life for the Maya people. The film highlights the significance of religion and ritual in Mayan society, where the gods controlled every aspect of the natural world, and elaborate sacrifices and ceremonies were performed to appease them. The Maya built grand temples and pyramids to honor their deities, and the well-being of their communities was linked to the success of their crops and fertility, which were ensured through complex rituals. The film portrays the cultural screen as an integral part of Mayan society, shaping their worldview and influencing their daily lives.

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

The Mayan civilization was renowned for its technological innovations that shaped their culture and society. Mathematics and astronomy were significant areas of development, with the Maya using a complex system of numerical notation and the concept of zero. The use of advanced agricultural practices, such as terracing and irrigation, enabled the Maya to grow crops in harsh environments, providing the foundation for their civilization. The Maya were also adept at engineering, developing complex systems for water management, building elaborate structures, and creating advanced transportation systems. The development of a hieroglyphic writing system allowed for the recording of history, religion, and culture, contributing to the preservation and dissemination of Mayan knowledge. These technological innovations helped define the Maya people and their culture, contributing to their impressive achievements in science, art, and architecture.

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

The Mayan civilization had a highly stratified hierarchical system where rulers or kings were at the top, followed by nobles and priests. Kings were considered divine and responsible for governing the society, managing the economy, and ensuring the people were fed and cared for. Nobles oversaw the day-to-day administration of the government and ensured that the laws were enforced. Priests played an important role in Mayan religion and were responsible for performing religious rituals and maintaining the temples. Each group had distinct responsibilities towards the general welfare of the society, and their positions were passed down through inheritance or achievements.