

## QUEST 7-2

# MAYAN CULTURE: POK-A-TOK AND THE CORNHEADS

NOTE: Unless you have earned the MAGIC QUILL power-up, these notes must be COPIED ON YOUR OWN PAPER.

Questions/Interactions	Notes
	<p><b>Family Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One room huts</li><li>• Women cooked, cleaned, and made cloth.</li><li>• Men farmed and hunted</li><li>• The Maya made a bitter beverage from the seed of the cacao tree called the “drink of the gods.”</li><li>• We call it “chocolate”.</li><li>• a matchmaker (atanzahab) negotiated marriages with parents.</li></ul> <p><b>Pok-a-tok</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• hit solid rubber ball (2-8 pounds) through stone ring using leather-padded elbows, wrists, and hips.</li><li>• no hands or feet.</li><li>• losers (and sometimes winners) were sacrificed</li></ul> <p><b>Maya Beauty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From birth boards were strapped to their heads to make them pointy (like corn- we think).</li><li>• They also thought the gods were cross-eyed so parents hung a little toy in front of their babies’ heads.</li><li>• They filed their front teeth and built up the bridge of their noses with clay.</li></ul> <p><b>Math</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Base 20 system</li><li>• dot = 1, line = 5, shell = 0</li><li>• Even the Greeks and Romans didn’t use a zero.</li><li>• Without a zero, every number must have its own symbol.</li><li>• That’s why some Roman Numerals are so long and complicated.</li></ul> <p><b>Writing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unlike the Aztec and Inca, they had a writing system.</li><li>• It used a combination of pictures and syllables (superior to Aztec and Inca writing system).</li><li>• They wrote about time, astrology, kings, rituals.</li><li>• Spanish missionaries burned most of their books (only four survived, so far).</li></ul>

## **Architecture**

- Used no metal tools or beasts of burden, just human labor.
- Covered stones with thick stucco and then painted it. (usually red, but the color has eroded in the past 1,100 years).