

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

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).