

History

Class 4

The Mayan Civilization

Tuesday 9th February 2021

Lesson Objective: To explore the hobbies and interests of the Mayans.

Starter: Hobbies and interests

Today in History we are looking at what the Mayans did in their spare time. We will be looking at what their interests were and how they liked to spend their leisure time. As a starter please write some ideas down for the following questions:

1. What do you think the phrase 'hobbies and interests' means?
2. Think about your own life, what are your hobbies and interests?
How do you spend your free time?

Hobbies and interests of the Mayans

- Please use the link below to learn about the games that the Mayans played. It might be a good idea to make some notes as you will need this information for later in the lesson.

Link

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw/articles/zbqyy4j>

Entertainment

Although much of the Maya life was spent doing hard work, they did enjoy entertainment as well. A lot of their entertainment was centered around religious ceremonies. They played music, danced, and played games such as the Maya ball game.



Maya ball court by Ken Thomas

Interesting Facts about Maya Daily Life

- The Maya considered crossed eyes, flat foreheads, and big noses to be beautiful features. In some areas they would use makeup to try and make their noses appear large.
- The Maya loved to wear large hats and headdresses. The more important the person, the taller the hat they wore.
- The farmers of the Maya did not have metal tools or beasts of burden to help them farm. They used simple stone tools and did the work by hand.
- Sometimes the ball games that the Maya played were part of a religious ceremony. The losers were sacrificed to the gods.
- The Maya had hundreds of different dances. Many of these dances are still practiced today. Some examples of the dances include the Snake dance, the Monkey dance, and the Dance of the Stag.

Please read the information on the left about how the Mayan's spent some of their free time.

Are there any similarities between how they spent their leisure time and how we do?

Are there any differences?

Try to answer these two questions!

Pitz

Time Period: Originated as early as 2,500 B.C.

Description: Pitz, perhaps Maya's most famous game, was used to settle disputes between cities without war. The losing team, or captured kings or high lords, were used as sacrifices to the gods once the game was over. The playing arena was in the shape of an I with high platforms on either side of the court, allowing for large numbers of spectators.

How it was played: The game was played with a rubber ball about the size of a soccer ball or softball. Players would attempt to bounce the ball without using their hands into stone hoops attached to the sides of the ball court. Players wore protective gear (leather or wood straps) around their torsos, knees, and elbows to prevent injury. Large headdresses were also worn to channel their "inner animal".

The game had a great religious significance, as the Mayans believed that the reborn Maize gods (who were avid players of the ballgame) were reborn on the ball court for humans to honor them.





The Mayan's liked to play ball games and would play these games in ball courts. The ball courts didn't look like sports stadiums today and looked like the pictures on this slide. The Mayan's are remembered for playing the game called the 'pitz'. Hopefully you have managed to get some information on this game from using the link earlier!



Pitz

To see what 'Pitz' the Mayan ball game looked like please use the link below.

Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGyIxqOOCsU>

Task

- Using the information that you have learnt about the Mayan ball game 'Pitz' I would like you to draw a diagram of what this game looked like. Try to give me an overview of how the game was played and where it would take place. I would be impressed if you could annotate it using a ruler with other important information I need to know about the game.
- Make sure you include a title and show me your best presentation. Remember your best handwriting and include capital letters and full stops in the correct places.

Task

Red Task - I can draw what a famous Mayan ball game looked like and can show the ball court it would be played in.

Yellow Task - I can produce a diagram of a famous Mayan ball game and can annotate it using the information I have learnt such as name of the activity, rules of the game etc.

Green Task - I can produce a detailed diagram of a famous Mayan ball game which is annotated too. I can then compare the game against a game that is played today identifying similarities and differences between the two.