



Maya City



- competent in **agriculture**, production of **ceramics**, **calendar-making**, **mathematics**
- remained great **stone cities**, profound **architectures**, symbolic **art pieces** by A.D. 900

The early Maya

- Primary agricultural development

e.g. grow simple crops i.e. corns, beans using primitive tools

- Forward cultural traits e.g. building pyramids, constructing cities, inscribing stone monuments

1800 B.C.

Decline of Maya

- Unknown reason; possible estimations: overpopulation, overconsumption of land, drought etc.

A.D. 900

A.D. 250

The classic Maya

- Golden age in civilisation: with ~40 cities, 2M-10M population
- More advanced agriculture e.g. use of terracing & irrigation
- Mature cultural development e.g. plazas, palaces, temples, pyramids
- Spiritual cities, worshipped nature-related gods

Location

- Southern **Mexico**
- Central and Southern **Yucatán Peninsula**
- **Tropical rainforest** of the Tierras Bajas
- Water resources and natural resources for farming and construction



Ceramics



Plate with Trumpeter

- A shallow plate for funerary offering, produced in the classic period

Late Preclassic period (250 B.C. to 250 A.D.)

- Basic kitchen utensils e.g. cups, bowls, pots
- Hand modeled
- Usually mono-colored; red and beige are common
- Made of clay collected t the river banks or at the edge of the cenotes

The early classic period (250 A.D. to 550 A.D.)

- More colors by mixing the paint with mineral pigments, and feet, handles and lids

The classic period (600 to 900 A.D.)

- Diversified sizes and shapes, with high reliefs and bas reliefs → produce appealing potteries

Upper class:

Paintings of Mayan kings, Mayan gods, animals
Potteries or incense and burial offerings

Working class:

Simple designs and colors
Daily usage

Architectures

Exterior surfaces:

Carvings/sculptures of mayan glyphs; stucco decoration

Interior walls:

Murals of wars, rulers and religious piece

→ **reflected strong local culture with typical features**

Usage of Pyramids:

- Temples for worshipping/offering.gods
- Gigantic tombs for kings, sacrificial victims
- Storage of luxury goods



Temple of the Inscription, Palenque

Example

- Iconic religious meaning of the architectural design
- **9 exterior levels = 9 levels of Xibalba** (the Maya underworld)
- **13-level secret passageway to the tomb of King Pakal = 13 levels of Maya heaven**

Reference

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