

Online Information

The Mystery at the Maya Ruins

Fascinating Facts

1. The four main structures in a Maya temple complex are a pyramid, an observatory, sacrificial altars, and a ball court.
2. The Maya used brushes made with animal hair and quills as writing tools.
3. The Maya calendar included 18 months of 20 days each, plus 1 month of 5 days.
4. Balls used in Maya ballgames were made of rubber and weighed about 8 pounds. They could cause severe injury to players!
5. The Maya loved jewelry, especially items of jade and gold. Jade was one of the most common items traded by the Maya.
6. Maya temples were decorated with brightly colored carvings of jaguars, snakes, birds, and turtles.
7. The Maya numbering system is based on the numbers 0 through 20.
8. Maya children were named according to the day they were born. Every day had a specific name assigned to it for both boys and girls.
9. A Maya myth: the Maya priests could create goblins called *aluxob*. These goblins would help the farmer grow corn by protecting his field and summoning the rain gods—but only if the goblin was well cared for.
10. Maya medicine men used advanced techniques. They sewed up wounds with human hair, healed fractures, made fake teeth using jade and turquoise, and used iron to fill cavities.

