

Ancient Maya

I am a student of 5 «B» grade
Kuzmenko Igor



The beginning

- ▶ About 2,400 years ago , a new tribe appeared in central America. They were very clever people. They did not use metal tools. They built huge cities using stone tools and wood tools, and tools made from shells.



They were skilled builders .
They built palaces, temples,
pyramids, walls, and homes .
Every city had a ball court ,
temples, and a central plaza.
Each city was a center of
learning and religion. Each city
had its own ruling family.



By around 900 CE , Maya cities fell into ruin. Nobody knows where they came from, and nobody knows what happened to them. It is a history mystery. About 40% of Guatemala`s modern population date back to the ancient Maya.



Education

- ▶ Maya people had a class structured society. At the top were the nobles and priests. They had a middle class of craftsmen, traders , and warriors. At the bottom, as usually in ancient time, were the farmers and slaves.
- ▶ The Maya did not use their own people as slaves. Slaves were captured from other tribes.



In the ancient Maya society, there was a special class of priest whose job was to teach the children of the nobles. That priest, taught math, science, astronomy, medicine, writing, and other subjects.



- ▶ But there was no formal school for the children of commoners. Most people in the Maya empire were farmers. The job of child was to help their parents. By the time a child turned 4 or 5 , they were given daily jobs to do, so they would learn how to be a farmer or a farmer`s wife. By the time they were considered an adult and fully trained for their life`s work.



© Olga Michi

Farmers

- ▶ Ancient Maya were very good farmers and grew more food than they needed. Extra food was stored in warehouses in each city-state to be used for trade and to feed people in each city-state who needed it. Farmers and their families ate corn porridge, tortillas filled with cooked vegetables.



- ▶ The women on the farms helped in the fields at planting and harvest time. Most of their time was spent cooking, cleaning, and sewing.



- ▶ Men and boys began working the fields at dawn. The Maya were very clean people. A bath was part of their daily life whenever possible. After their evening bath , the men had time to make tools and be with their children.



- ▶ They had days off to attend religious festival and family celebrations.



Thank you for attention!!!

- ▶ 1) About 2,400 ago , a new tribe appeared in Central Africa.
- ▶ 2) There was no formal school for the children of commoners.
- ▶ 3) The women on the farms didn` t help in the fields at planting and harvest time.
- ▶ 4) Farmers and their families ate tomatoes , tortillas filled with cooked meat.
- ▶ 5) About 50% of Guatemala`s modern population date back to the ancient Maya.
- ▶ 6) Maya people had a class structured society.
- ▶ 7) The Maya did not use their own people as slaves.
- ▶ 8) Most people in the Maya empire were farmers.
- ▶ 9) They were skilled builders.
- ▶ 10) They weren`t very clever people.