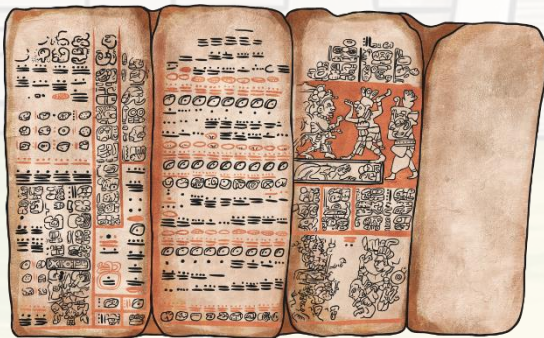


Maya Art



Maya Civilisation

The Maya created many different types of artwork. Their art depicted their religious beliefs, their way of life, wars they had fought, how they sacrificed people and their kings. Maya kings had a desire to be remembered and art was the best way they could achieve this.



Sculpture

Many sculptures were made of stone. They were often positioned beside altars. The largest sculpture was discovered in the city of Quirigua. The craftsmen would have used stone chisels and wooden mallets.

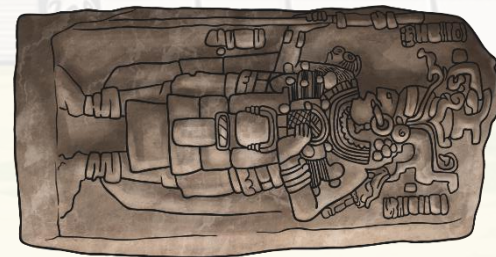
Maya sculptors also worked in limestone, wood and sandstone.



Ceramics



The Mayas made cooking pots, bowls, jars and vases from clay. These vessels often had decorative patterns. They painted the vessels in a style called polychrome using a range of colours, such as orange, red and yellow. The decorations were from Maya mythology and everyday life. These pots are of great importance for archaeologists trying to understand more about the Maya era.



Ceramics



An engraved head



A polychrome urn

Ceramics



The carved head of a nobleman

Frescoes



Frescoes have been discovered on the walls of Maya temples. These frescoes show scenes of daily life, stories, battles and religious events. The most famous fresco was discovered in Bonampak in Chiapas, Mexico.

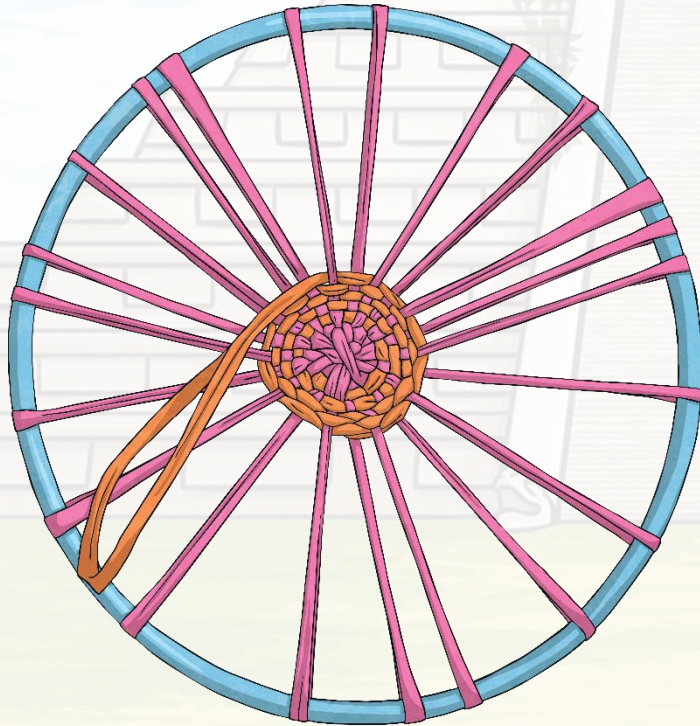
Frescoes

What could you say about the Mayas from this fresco?



Weaving and Feather Work

From the carvings and paintings, archaeologists can say that the Mayas wore large headdresses made from feathers. These were a sign of status with the nobility wearing clothing made from feather too.



Jade Jewellery

Jade was very valuable to the Maya.
Some pendants, necklaces and engravings were made from jade.



Other Materials

The Mayas also created jewellery from bone.

Metal was used from AD900. Pots were made from copper and there is evidence of gold being used to adorn sculptures and for jewellery.



Interesting Facts

Maya artists sometimes signed their names on their artwork.
Mayas used stucco plaster to make huge masks of their gods and kings.
Some of the finest and best examples of Maya art have been found in the city of Palenque, Mexico.

