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What job did most mayan peasants have

Essential Themes of Beliefs: Why Do People Live The Way They Do? Government: How do people organise their society and why do they organise them the way they do? From left to right, above, are clay figurines representing the Mayan king, priest, costumed nobleman, sitting woman, warrior and commoner. SOCIAL CLASSESMaya was a class society. As in other Mesoamerican cultures, a person's daily life depended on their social class. There were slaves, peasants, craftsmen and merchants, nobility, priests and leaders. There were warriors, too. The highest class consisted of nobility. Apart from the king were noble priests, scribes, government officials and elite warriors. The middle class consisted of artisans, traders, weavers, potters and other warriors. At the bottom of the social order were farmers, other workers and slaves. As you learned in your last lesson, Maya's social structure was rather rigid without much room for mobility, even from one generation to the next. For example, the May man's work came from his father. If your father were king, you'd inherit the throne. If your father was a farmer, you'd be a farmer. When your father made bricks, you made bricks. There were a few exceptions, but they were rare. There was somewhat more flexibility for women. Some women were involved in government, economy and religion. At the same time, however, they were still responsible for caring for children and managing their homes, as were their mothers. Slaves, to understand Maya's social order, you must start at the bottom. The slaves were the lowest class in the Maya society. They were usually orphans, prisoners of war, criminals or children of slaves. Although their owners did not abuse them, slaves still did not have rights or privileges in Maya society. Basically, slaves only function in society was to do all the manual work. That's why Maya's society depended on them. The slaves worked in the homes of noble families. Some slaves took care of the children. Some cleaned up the house. Still others worked in the field. In addition, slaves helped build large Maya temples, such as the one pictured on the right. They were also the ones most commonly used in human sacrifice rituals. Commoners Most Maya lived in the lower class and most of the lower class consisted of commoners. Because Maya depended on agriculture for food and commerce, most commoners were farmers during the growing season. Once crops were harvested, farmers often went to work building pyramids and temples to find their beautiful cities. While some commoners may also work as servants of the noble class, such as porters, or limestone quarries cutting stone for numerous Maya construction projects, the most commoners were farmers who passed on from one generation to the next. Whether on a farm, on a construction site or in one of their other trades, the lives of the commoners involved a lot of hard work. Maya did not have metal tools or pack animals, such as horses or steers, to help with ploughing, so fathers and sons worked their land mainly manually. The use of stonetels helped little, and when a sharp edge was needed, they designed the cutting tools of obsidian or flint. Women and daughters cooked, cleaned and devoured. The girls stare at their youngest siblings. The women carried goods in baskets with their heads from the field and into the market, and they helped the fields when needed. Maya's farming families started their day early. Men and boys would head to the fields or the latest construction sites and the women went to work in their homes, cooking, grinding corn, raising children, caring gardens, checking beehives and weaving cloth in their clothes and the market. The commoners worked hard, but ate well. Breakfast consisted of hot corn porridge flavoured with either chillies or honey. Working during the day, men and boys would eat dumplings made from corn and full of vegetables and meat. At home after work, the family gathered for their main meal, stuffing tortillas with vegetables, along with meat or fish, while they had it. At the next dawn, everyone fell asleep as soon as another hard job went dark. Life wasn't all the work of the Maya commoners, however. At least every month there was a religious festival in the city, and everyone went and danced and worshipped their many gods. The festivals also meant feasts on delicious food, and along with the rest of the community, the commonpeople can watch the Pok-a-Tok game. And as kids do everywhere, Maya's kids played with toys. On the left is a leja jaja on wheels and two animal-shaped whistles. Seeing wheeled toys doesn't make you wonder why the wheel wasn't used more widely in Mesoamerica? It is said that elite dancing during the Maya festivals wore as much as 25 pounds of Jade jewelry. In the mural pictured above, how many examples of Maya craft work can you find and name? ARTISANS in May at the beginning was probably a small difference between nobles and commoners. The growth of maya towns, however, changed that. As inter-urban trade grew and became more important, groups of people were formed to manage and trade important construction projects in the city. These people formed the middle class of the Maya society. The Maya middle class included craftsmen, merchants, minor government officials, warriors, and some scribes. Basically, all these people worked for government or trade. Maya craftsmen had a slightly easier life than the hard, physical work required by the commonpeople who worked While artisans were still considered commoners, rather than heading off to the fields, they spent their days creating beautiful items such as jewelry, textiles, ceramics and leather jackets and headresses. Although woven textiles and leather goods created by Mayan craftsmen broke down over time and no longer have them, stone-carved and jewellery remains a bold statement about the skills of Maya's craft organisations. Jade's funeral masks were a very special kind of handcrafted work. Above is the funeral mask pa'kal the great, King Palenque. Everyone lives under one roof, Maya's families include not only mothers, fathers and children, but also aunts, uncles and grandparents. Since children usually inherited their jobs from their parents, Mayan communities could see entire families crafting, related to the same craftsmanship, with each family member playing a part in creating goods for the market or paying homage to the king. Although artisan families may live in slightly larger houses, the pattern of their daily lives was in many ways the same as that of farmers. Like farmers, the crafts rose early to start a long day working on their craft. ✪The staff is very friendly and helpful. Standing at an impressive 12 feet high, these two stelae at Quirriga tell Maya's creation story in great detail. After breakfast, the work started. Carvers can go to a new temple complex to begin work on stela, a large stone column that celebrated the king's life and deeds or important events in community life. Feather workers can go to the market to see if hunters or rare poultry farmers have feathers to sell. Those who made jewelry or ceramics probably worked in a home studio or a common building dedicated to their craft. Although most of maya's artisanal goods were of noble class and royalty, artisanal people could sell their goods on the market with a profit for the family. If they had respect for their king and taxes on their community, the craftsman could use the rest of what they deserved to improve their lives. Usually this meant improvements to your home, better food, or fancier jewelry or clothes. Merchants Farming formed the core of the Maya civilization. With the growth of the big cities during the Classic Period, however, trade became equally important. Indeed, trade was so important to Maya that they even had a god dedicated to merchants and traders, Bolon Yookte'K'Oh. Before the growth of the towns, most Of the Mayans lived in small villages that were easy to tolerate with the food grown and the work done by the villagers themselves. As cities grew and the population reached tens of thousands, the only way to meet local needs was to trade with other villages and Bolon Yookte'K'Oh, Maya's business god, is pictured with the ears of a jaguar above the left. Bolon Yookte'K'Oh ruled all business operations in the ancient Maya Empire. Maya connected its cities to established trade routes. Maya merchants traded two types of goods, items for everyday use and luxury items. Items for everyday use contained items such as salt, which was particularly important in their hot climate, food, clothing and tools. Luxury items were things that royalty and nobles used to show off their wealth and power. These items included jade, gold, beautiful ceramics, jewellery and duvets. Luxury items often followed longer trades. Long-distance traders took their goods along established trade routes that stretch from Mexico to the north, through Central America and even down to South America. Maya traders even reached Cuba and the islands of the Caribbean traveling in canoes so large that they could accommodate up to twenty people plus commercial goods. When it comes to maya trade, it's important to remember that they didn't have any money. So trade was literally just that - trade. Maya merchants traded items they had in surplus for the necessary items. However, not everything traded was equal. In fact, less frequently, sought after, luxurious items could be worth significantly more than ordinary items. For example, only one ounce of Quetzal feathers could get you fifty pounds of corn, one ounce of cocoa beans could get you two pounds of corn, and one ounce of gold could get you 20 pounds of corn. There was a lot of change in May! Major cities demanded that food be brought to markets outside the city. Most of the food was grown locally, but what did not grow nearby had to be brought through trade with other urban states or respect the city's king. Most food products are traded regionally or in local markets. The foods placed on the market were turkeys, ducks, dogs, fish, honey, beans and fruit. In addition to food, Maya merchants also traded both raw materials and manufactured goods. Raw goods included jade, copper, gold, granite, marble, limestone and wood. Made goods include textiles, especially beautifully embroidered cloth, clothes, feather capes and headphones, paper, furniture, jewelry, toys and weapons. Specialists such as architects, mathematicians, scribes and engineers also sold their services on the market. How did the Maya warriors prepare for battle? The clay figures above show different aspects of the typical warriors kit. Note the heavy cloth armor on the left, and the noise makers attached the shield to the right. Warriors For years it was believed that Maya was mostly peaceful, fighting only occasionally in the wars of prisoners used for human sacrifice. However, evidence from the latest archaeological excavations shows that The late classical period (600-900 CE) war was an almost constant situation for the Maya Kings, who were after more lands, natural resources and control of commercial networks. Because of the almost constant war that developed, well-trained warriors were essential to the Maya way of life and the work of the warrior was very respected. The Mayes were fierce warriors. Before going into battle, the warriors created a confidence-building shield. It was a round, flat circle, covered in images that represented all the wonderful things they had achieved and all the battles they had won. Before the great battle, the warriors danced around, holding their shields, with the noise-makers, to hide themselves in battle. Maya weapons, left to right: Club obsidian blades, spear throw atlatl, obsidian knife and axe obsidian blade. CLICK to watch a brief demonstration atlatl at work. The weapons used by the Maya warriors usually fell into two categories. Long-range weapons include spears, blow guns, slings and later a bow and arrow. Because the warrior's goal was more often to capture than kill, however, the more commonly used weapons were designed to fight manually. These weapons included clubs with obsidian-lined parties that were good for both thumping and cutting, knives and axes. The axes were usually double-sided with one cutting edge and one blunt edge used to anesthet your opponent. Note that maya noble's gorgeous hat, earrings, necklace and large feathered cape are over the right hand. NoblesNoble class was the smallest of any Maya social class, but they were much richer and more powerful. Basically nobles were people who had royal blood but they were not king. They did some of the most important Maya jobs. They were priests and government officials, court officials and the city's rulers and administrators, scribes and tax collectors, as well as military leaders. Such important work was always kept in the royal family and passed on to their children. According to Maya's beliefs, the nobles filled the room somewhere between the gods and the people. With this heightened social position, they had to serve both. Because of their status as go-betweeners for the Maya gods and people, the nobles received more material benefits than the lower-class Maya. Instead of one-bedroom cabins, they lived in a large stone house in downtown Maya towns. Their diet was similar to other classes, but they probably ate more meat and enjoyed a delicious, frothy chocolate drink every day. In exchange for the rewards received, the nobles made regular donations to the gods that contained their own blood. They used stingray spines or thorns to crush their ears or tongue and they considered it an honor. They squeezed their blood into strips of paper, which were then burned to the gods. Of all their fancy clothes, the point of special pride for the Mayians was what they wear on their heads. In addition to their nice home and larger dishes, Maya nobles also loved wearing fancy clothes and elaborate jewelry. In fact, both men and women nobles had great pride in their personal appearance. They pierced their ears. They covered their bodies with tattoos. They painted their bodies. They loved being fancy, colorful embroidery to add to their clothes. And they liked jewelry. Together with the laws of Maya, which prohibit the commonpeople from wearing the type of nobility, their modern extravagances made the Mayan nobles easily recognizable. For the Mayan, as in other ancient civilizations, the life of the nobleman was easier than for the common people. The nobleman's life, however, was not without any defects. When the noble were imprisoned in war, they were tortured and sacrificed much more likely to the gods. While imprisoned commoners could also be sacrificed, they were more likely to end up as slaves. Priests were involved in almost every aspect of Maya's life. PriestsReligion was at the heart of almost all of Maya's activities. As a result, the Mayan priests were second most important, only behind the Mayan kings in their social order. Maya priests were the most educated in the entire Maya. They were considered keepers of knowledge. They learned these skills to read, write and teach to noble sons. They also studied astronomy and astrology and used the complex Maya calendar to advise on everything from the time of the crops to prophecies of kings, nobles and commoners. The priests followed the family's inheritance lines, especially in the case of the Mayan kings. With this combination of skills, you can say that priests were also maya historians. The Maye priests perform a ritual in front of a sitting king. Maya believed in many gods and goddesses. Plants, animals, places, even stones can be their own god or goddess. Maya believed that every part of their lives had religious significance and that their priests could speak to the gods. Therefore, one of the most important things that priests did was to hold religious ceremonies. Because Maya had so many gods, at least once a month, everyone from king to commonpeople went to religious ceremonies where priests made donations to the gods. The offer may be food or incense. It was often the bloodshed of priests. Occasionally, victimization took the form of human sacrifice. So many ceremonies, taking charge of such events, speaking to the gods, and interpreting the will of the gods was a big part of the priest's life. King Pa'Kal of Palenque. Leaders at the top of the social order were the Kings of Maya. Mayan civilization, however, was not an empire, with one king in control of vast territory. Instead, each Major cities can control the smaller ones around them, receive respect or taxes in exchange for the protection of the king. The King was considered a holy ruler who ruled with divine law. It is thought to be a descendant of God, the king's authority was indisputable and absolute. In the cities of Maya, the crown was given from father to son. In theory, the same family could rule forever, or at least until proof emerged that the king would no longer be favored by the gods. Losing in war was a sure sign that the king had lost the favor of the gods. Maya had many powerful female rulers. Although the king's reign was most common, a woman could rule, and many did. But when she took power, it was usually the king's widow or the prince's mother. However, many of maya's female rulers were quite powerful, even taking part in the battle. The first female Maya ruler in Maya's history was Palenque Lady Yohl Ik'nal. Lady Yohl Ik'nal was also the second female ruler, Lady Sak K'uk, and Pa'ka the Great's grandmother, one of Maya's most powerful kings. Other notable female rulers include Lady Tikal. For 16 years, he ruled over the important religious and economic centre of Tikal. And at least two female rulers were known not only as powerful rulers, but also as warriors queens. Lady K'abal of Waká was given the name of a animal or supreme warlord, her city. And Lady Six Sky is described as a warrior king in Naranjos, even stelae. Questions: 1. Why are mayes named People corn? 2. Name the three classes of maya society. Society.

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