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ЛИЦЕЙ №7

Исследовательская работа *«Maya Culture»*

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ГОЛОЦВАН Л.И.

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СОДЕРЖАНИЕ

- I. Введение**
- II. Основная часть**
 - *Maya art*
 - Architecture
 - Sculpture
 - Hieroglyphs and Books
 - Music
 - *Maya medicine*
 - *Maya Society*
 - Childhood in Maya society
- III. Заключение**
- IV. Библиография**

ВВЕДЕНИЕ

Майя — цивилизация Центральной Америки, известная благодаря своей письменности, искусству, архитектуре, математической и астрономической системам. Начала формироваться в предклассическую эру (2000 г. до н. э. — 250 г. н. э.), большинство её городов достигло пика своего развития в классический период (250—900 гг. н. э.). К моменту прибытия конкистадоров была в глубоком упадке.

Я выбрала данную тему потому, что мне всегда была интересна культура древних Майя, их знаменитый календарь, архитектура, традиции. Ведь Майя — самая знаменитая древняя цивилизация из всех существующих.

В своем проекте я постаралась передать самые интересные факты о древних Майя.

Благодаря данному проекту я планирую обогатить свои знания о культуре древних Майя.

Надеюсь, что данный проект поможет мне в осуществлении поставленной задачи.

ОСНОВНАЯ ЧАСТЬ

MAYA ART ARCHITECTURE

Maya architecture is first of all the lay-out of the impressive houses, courtyards, and temples where the kings resided, characterized by the immense horizontal floors of the plazas located at various levels, and the broad and often steep stairs connecting these.

A unique and spectacular style, Maya architecture spans several thousands of years. Yet, often the most dramatic and easily recognizable as Maya are the stepped pyramids from the Terminal Pre-classic period and beyond. Each pyramid was dedicated to a deity whose shrine sat at its peak.

SCULPTURE

The Mayans created a great number of sculptures out of different materials, mainly of stone, wood, stucco, and jade.

Stone

A common form of Maya sculpture was the stela. These were large stone slabs covered with carvings. Most of them depict the rulers of the cities they were located in, often disguised as gods.

Wood

Sculptures in wood must once have been extremely common, but have rarely survived; the existent examples include, however, wooden lintels from some of the main Tikal temples.

Stucco

Stucco sculpture adorned the facades of many buildings and was usually painted. Unique in Mesoamerica, it includes realistic portraiture of a quality equalling that of Roman ancestral portraits, with the lofty stucco heads of Palenque rulers and portraits of dignitaries from Tonina as outstanding examples.

HIEROGLYPHS AND BOOKS

The Maya writing system consists of about 1000 distinctive characters or hieroglyphs, and like many ancient writing systems is a mixture of syllabic signs and logograms.

The books were folded and consisted of paper or leather leaves with an adhesive stucco layer on which to write; they were protected by jaguar skin covers or, perhaps, wooden boards. Since every diviner probably needed a book, there must have existed large numbers of them.

MUSIC

The Music that was central to pre-Columbian Maya culture still remains a bit of a mystery today. On the other hand, many aspects of Maya music have come to light from archaeological discoveries, ancient Maya murals, and ancient Maya texts. It is evident from these sources that music played a key role in the expressive arts of Maya culture. Music served many functions in Maya society, not to mention the role society played on music itself.

MAYA MEDICINE

Health and medicine among the ancient Maya was a complex blend of mind, body, religion, ritual, and science. Important to all, medicine was practiced only by a select few, who generally inherited their positions and received extensive education. These shamans act as a medium between the physical world and spirit world. They practice sorcery for the purpose of healing, foresight, and control over natural events. Since medicine was so closely related to religion and sorcery, it was essential that Maya medicine men had vast medical knowledge and skill. It is known that the Maya sutured wounds with human hair, reduced fractures, and were even skilled dental surgeons, making prostheses from jade and turquoise and filling teeth with iron pyrite.

In understanding Maya health and medicine, it is important to recognize that the Maya equated sickness with the captivity of one's soul by supernatural beings, angered by some perceived misbehavior (Colby, 84). For this reason, curing a sickness involved elements of ritual, cleansing, and often herbal remedy. Research of Maya ethno-medicine shows that though supernatural causes are related to illness, a large percentage of Maya medical texts are devoted to the treatment of symptoms based upon objective observations of the effects of certain plants on the human system (Roys 20). Herbal remedies were eaten, drank, smoked, snorted, rubbed on the skin, and even used in the form of enemas to force rapid absorption of a substance into the blood stream. Cleansing techniques such as fasting, sweating, and purging flushed substances out of the body and reshaped consciousness (Houston, Stuart, & Taube, 277).

MAYA SOCIETY

CHILDHOOD IN MAYA SOCIETY

The role of the children in the Maya society was first and foremost to help their elders. Once children turned five or six they were expected to contribute to the family . They were treated as young adults and received more responsibilities as they grew older. Young girls were expected to perform household duties, while young boys were to help their fathers in farming. Mostly women raised the children, but “When a boy was about four or five ... his father began the training of his son” (Sharer, 482). When adolescents turned 15, they were expected to be independent. The family was still there to help them, but for the most part they were on their own to provide for themselves.

The Maya desired some unnatural physical characteristics for their children. For instance, at a very young age boards were pressed on babies' foreheads to create a flattened surface. This process was widespread among the upper class . Another practice was to cross babies' eyes. In addition, there were a few unique customs regarding children. For example, most Maya children were named according to the day they were born. Every day of the year had a specific name for both boys and girls and parents were expected to follow that practice.

ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЕ

- ✕ Thanks to this project, I have learned a lot about Maya civilization, which was one of the most advanced.
- ✕ I think, that we can discover more interesting things about life, culture, education and science of this civilization.

Благодаря данному проекту я узнала много нового о цивилизации Майя, одной из самых передовых цивилизаций в мире. Я думаю, что мы откроем еще много нового о жизни, культуре, образовании и науке этой цивилизации. Надеюсь, что мой проект поможет ученикам в изучении такой интересной цивилизации, как Майя, потому что я считаю, что не знать ничего о них – это преступление.

Б И Б Л И О Г Р А Ф И Я

При подготовке данной исследовательской работы я пользовалась ресурсами из сети Интернет, а в частности всемирной энциклопедией Википедия:

<http://en.wikipedia.org>