5th Gymnasium Neapoli

2014-2015

ENGLISH PROJECT Māyā

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An ancient civilization

Maya is an American Indian civilization in Central America. It occupies a continuous area of south Mexico, Guatemala and north Belize and it speaks different languages of Mayas.

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The history of Maya

Before the conquest of Mexico by Spanish, Mayas had developed the most important civilization of the Western hemisphere. They used to act the agriculture , built stone houses and pyramids , which were temples. They worked with brass and gold, they knew how to weave and they used a type of hieroglyphic writing.

The roots of the Mayan civilization reach far back into prehistory, beyond 2000 BC where the Archaic period corresponds. After starting the pre-classic period dating from 2000 BC until 250 AD . Here, the classical period until 1000 AD .Finally the 1000-1540 dates the post-classical period.



The Mayas' Knowledge

 The Mayas, many centuries before us, made on their labels that the actual year consists of 365 days. But the Mayan knowledge does not end here. Apart from the solar year, they calculated the lunar and the movements of Venus, always with an amazing accuracy, requiring fatal use of complex instruments.

The Mayan Music

The music of the ancient Mayan courts is known through descriptions in native and Spanish 16th-century texts and the depiction of performances in the art of the Classic Period (200-900 AD).

Many instruments have come to light, so that tonal reach and scales can be studied, but no musical notation has survived, and the music itself disappeared after the dissolution of the Maya courts following the Spanish Conquest.

Music played a vital role in the public rituals and ceremonies, with instruments being grouped into orchestral sections.



Mayan Instruments





THE END

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