

Maya Games



Fishing Game: Print two sets on card and cut out. Mix them up and turn them face down. Turn two over at a time. Can you find a matching pair?

Maya Snap: Print two sets on card and cut out. Give one set to a friend. Each place a card on the table at the same time. If it matches, shout SNAP and win the pile.



CHAN
'sky'



WINIK
'person'



WITZ
'mountain'



K'IN
'sun'



B'ALAM
'jaguar'



K'AK'
'fire'



BAK
'bone'



WAY
'spirit'



JUUN
'book'



JA'
'water'



AJAW
'lord'



MUYAL
'cloud'



IX
'woman'



CH'AM
'to grab'



K'UK'
'quetzal'



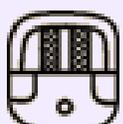
CHAN
'snake'



CH'UL
'holy'



CHOK
'to scatter'



JAAB'
'year'



YAX
'blue/green'



PAKAL
'shield'



TOK
'flint'

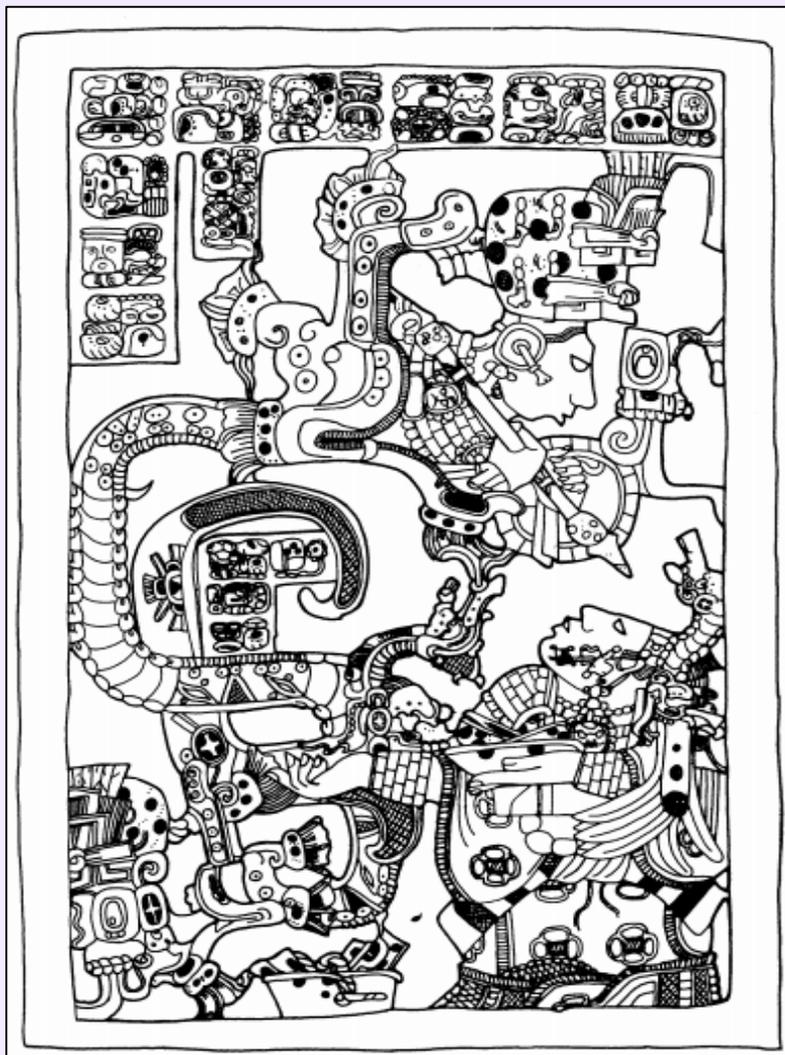


NAJ
'house'



K'AL
'twenty'

The history and main points of Maya writing



Lady Xook has a vision of an ancestor, October, 681

The hieroglyph writing of the ancient Maya is beautiful. They were an amazing civilisation.

The Maya were great architects, mathematicians, astronomers, and artists. In their time, they built cities as grand and beautiful as any in Europe or the Far East.

They were one of only a few people who invented the zero, a concept extremely important in mathematics. And their artists created a style that is considered one of the great art forms of history.



What's more, they were one of only three civilizations that invented a complete system of writing.

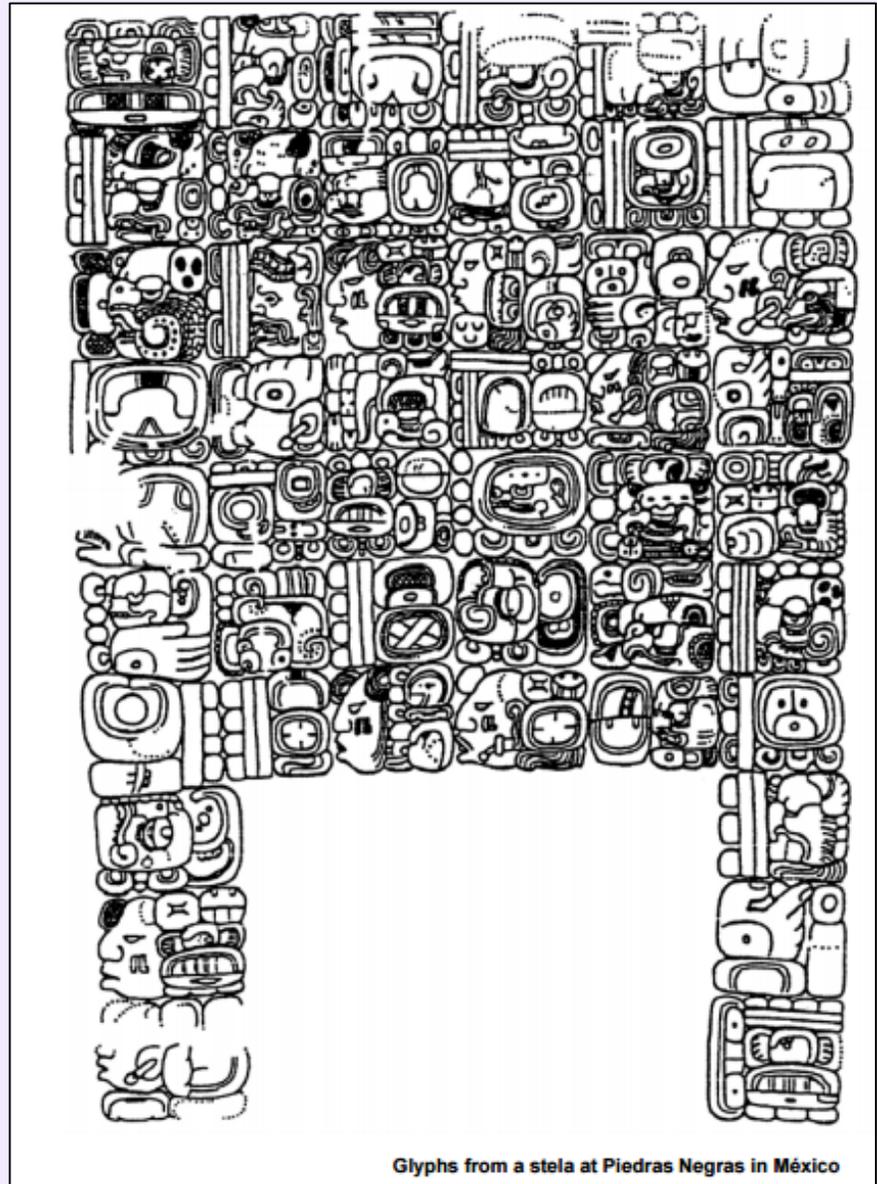
For many years the ancient Maya were a mystery to the world. Their writing could not be read by anyone, not even modern Maya people.

Now, in just the last 25 years, the 'Maya 7 Code' has been largely broken and it is possible to understand much of what was written on monuments, stelae, tablets, vases, and other objects made by the ancient Maya.

Maya writing has a lot of signs and symbols.

These are called 'hieroglyphs,' or more simply 'glyphs.'

To most of us, these glyphs look like pictures, but it is often hard to say what they are pictures of, for example:



We will call the glyphs that stood for syllables 'syllable glyphs,' and we'll call the glyphs that stood for whole words 'logos.'

(Syllabograms and logograms)

Here's how to write using syllable glyphs:

The ancient Maya word for jaguar was b'alam (two syllables)

These 5 groups of glyphs are all perfectly correct ways to write the word b'alam, or jaguar:

