



◀ **IN THE 18TH** century, a Maya screen-fold manuscript was discovered in the Royal Library of Dresden. It came to be known as the Dresden Codex. It is the earliest, most beautiful, and best preserved of the folding-screen books. The book shows the 260-day calendar and the gods associated with the days. The codex deals with the cycles of Venus and includes tables for predicting lunar eclipses.

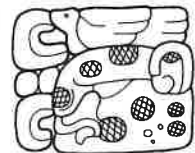
▶ **GLYPHS ARE NOT** easy to decipher, and it has taken over 100 years to begin to decode them. In 1952 and 1960, Heinrich Berlin and Tatiana Proskouriakoff found that some glyphs recorded the histories of ruling families. In 1952, Yuri Knorosov discovered that other glyphs recorded the sounds of the Mayan language rather than being pictures standing for whole words (right). Now we can read what the classic Maya wrote about themselves.

SOME BIG-TIME MAYA



Can you see the Maya names in these glyphs?

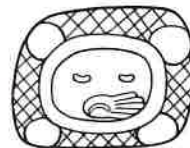
Shield Jaguar



Bird Jaguar



Great Sun Quetzal (Bird)



Pacal (Hand Shield)



1910

◀ **SYLVANUS MORLEY** stands before an enormous, uncleaned stone containing hieroglyphic writing in 1910. Morley, a Mayanist, added a great deal to the knowledge of the meaning of glyphs. His 1946 book, *The Ancient Maya*, and Eric Thompson's 1954 book, *The Rise and Fall of Maya Civilization*, maintained the view that the Maya were—in contrast to others in the ancient world—peaceful people, living relatively isolated lives, and thus able to make great advances. This was the view held of the Maya for many years.



1989

◀ **RECENT RESEARCH** revealing the true meaning of Maya hieroglyphics shows that the Maya did wage wars, trade with neighbors, and give and take ideas in such areas as art and writing.

David Stuart, Kid Cryptographer



David Stuart, age 8 above, age 23 below



HE BEGAN YOUNG.

In 1973, at age 8, David Stuart began sketching glyphs from Maya stelae "just for the fun of it." He was living in a Maya hut while his parents, Maya experts, did research. From drawing and studying the glyphs, David figured out what many of them meant. Three years later, it took him only 8 hours to read most of the tablet from Palenque's Temple of the Sun—something that had taken scholars 5 years to do! Imagine being a world-renowned cryptographer before your 12th birthday!

Maya Today

Most of the more than six million modern Maya live in rural areas of Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize—areas where their ancestors lived. Their culture is a mixture of pre-Columbian Indian, European, and modern elements—not purely one or another.

The Maya today are not very well off economically. In the 1970s, the Guatemalan government began a systematic campaign to destroy Maya culture, killing thousands of highland Indians and forcing tens of thousands of others to flee across the border into Mexico. Entire villages have been razed to the ground and new ones built where the natives are forced to abandon their language, native dress, and local village organizations.

Will the Maya survive this latest onslaught or not? This remains to be seen.



▲ **IN REMOTE AND** isolated villages, houses are the same thatched-roof dwellings with lime-plas-

tered stone or earthen walls that were used in classic times.



▲ **IN MANY PLACES,** traditional dress is common, but Maya also enjoy wearing colorful clothing from other cultures.



▲ **MAYA AUTHORITY** Linda Schele teaches modern Maya the writing of their ancestors.

► **MAYA LIFE TODAY** reflects the long history of outside influences. Nearly every town has a Catholic church, a public school, and municipal buildings. Some towns even have a movie theater, a tavern, and a gas station. Many Maya houses have radios and electric lights. On roads there are trucks, cars, and buses. Yet in spite of the inroads of other cultures, the Maya have clung to some original traditions.

◀ **MANY MAYA** today resist attempts to make them part of the mainstream of Mexican and Guatemalan life. They don't want to be an oppressed minority. They cherish their own culture and values.



◀ **POTTERY IS STILL** made by ancient methods. Traditional backstrap looms are used to make splendid fabrics.

▲ **AS IN PRE-**Columbian times, adjacent structures serve as cooking or storage units, and the houses are grouped in compounds.



◀ **COLORFUL TEXTILES** and ancient techniques of textile making survive in Guatemala and Chiapas. In Guatemala, the ancient calendar is still used to mark the annual ceremonial cycle.



▲ **MANY FESTIVALS** and religious celebrations include such pre-Columbian activities as the burning of copal incense, fasting, and offerings.



▲ **RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ**, a spokesperson for native peoples, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992.



WHAT'S WRONG?

Something has gone wrong in this ancient Maya village. Can you find five things that don't belong here?



MORE READING ON THE MAYA

BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Barbara L. Beck, *The Ancient Maya*, Franklin Watts, 1983.
Lawana Hooper Trout, *The Maya*, Chelsea House, 1991.
Pamela Odijk, *The Mayas*, Silver Burdett Press, 1989.

ADULT BOOKS

Claude Baudez and Sydney Picasso, *Lost Cities of the Maya*, Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1987.
Michael D. Coe, *Breaking the Maya Code*, Thames and Hudson, Inc., 1992.
Michael D. Coe, *The Maya*, fourth edition, Thames and Hudson, Inc., 1987.
Charles Gallencamp, *Maya*, third edition, Viking Penguin, Inc., 1987.
John S. Henderson, *The World of the Ancient Maya*, Cornell University Press, 1981.
Jeremy A. Sabloff, *The New Archaeology and the Ancient Maya*, Scientific American Library, 1990.

POPCORN JAMBOREE

The Maya invented many ways to prepare corn. Here are a few variations on a POPular modern corn treat. Adult supervision is required for this activity.



1. BACK TO BASICS

Start with unbuttered, unsalted popcorn, prepared any way you're equipped to do it. One simple way is to heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a deep saucepan and add a few kernels of popping corn. When the kernels pop, the pan is hot enough. Add 2/3 cup of corn. Cover the pan and shake it gently so the corn won't stick. When the

popping stops, uncover the pan and pour the popcorn into a bowl. Now you're ready to try some superiffic toppings.

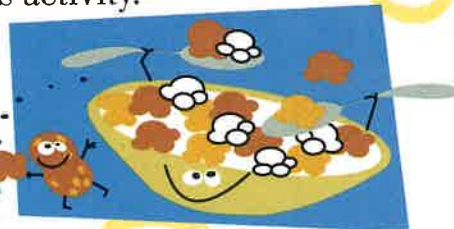
2. CHEESE POPCORN

Melt 3 tablespoons of butter over low heat. Stir in 5 tablespoons of grated Parmesan cheese. Pour over popcorn. If you want, dust the popcorn with a light sprinkling of onion salt or garlic powder.



3. CHOCOLATE-COVERED POPCORN

Boil together 1 1/2 cups of sugar, 1 1/2 tablespoons of butter, 1 square of unsweetened chocolate, and 3 tablespoons of water. Pour the hot mixture over popcorn and stir until all the popcorn is covered. Spread on waxed paper and let cool before eating.



4. GOOBER POPCORN

Melt 3 tablespoons of butter over low heat. Add 3 tablespoons of peanut butter and mix well. Pour the mixture over the popcorn.

After you've tried these variations on popcorn, try inventing your own. How about mixing orange juice with the butter to create Citrus Supreme? Or stirring chili powder into the butter for Mexicorn?

WHAT AM I?

Use the following clues to spell out the name of the Maya's main food.

My first letter is in STEM but not in SET. ____

My second's in WREATH but not in THREW. ____

My third's in BAIT but not in BAT. ____

My fourth's in ZEBRA but not in BARE. ____

My fifth's in EASY but not in SAY. ____

WHAT AM I? ____

BREAKING A CODE

The scientists who figured out Maya hieroglyphics had to be experts at breaking codes. The following message about the Maya creation myth is written in a simple code. The first two words of the code are translated for you. Can you break the code and decode the rest of the message? Hint: The code is made up of the numbers 1-26.

	THE													
7	19 22													
CREATORS														
24	9 22 26 7 12 9 8													
<i>mad</i> <i>I</i> <i>The</i>														
14	26 23 22	7 19 22												
<i>FLESH</i>														
21	15 22 8 19	12 21												
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> </table>									19	6	14	26	13	8
19	6	14	26	13	8									
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td> </tr> </table>									8	26	24	9	22	23
8	26	24	9	22	23									

KIDS DISCOVER (ISSN 1054-2868) is published monthly by KIDS DISCOVER, 149 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010. Phone (212) 677-4457. Periodicals Postage paid at New York, NY, and additional mailing offices.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Rates: one year \$26.95, two years \$52.90. Send subscription orders, address changes, and service inquiries to KIDS DISCOVER, P.O. Box 54205, Boulder, CO 80328-4205.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to KIDS DISCOVER, P.O. Box 54205, Boulder, CO 80328-4205 (including label from cover of magazine).

ANSWERS

PAGE 3: The first Americans came from Asia to North America via a land bridge over the Bering Strait. That land bridge no longer exists. What do you think happened to it? *Because it was the Ice Age and much of the land was frozen, the water level of the oceans was low. Land that is now covered with water was then exposed.*

PAGES 18 & 19:

WHAT'S WRONG?: Cowboy boots, ice cream cone, lamp, elephant, airplane.

WHAT AM I? MAIZE

BREAKING A CODE: The code is A=26, B=25, C=24 and so on through Z=1. The message is "The creators made the flesh of humans from sacred maize."

BACK & BULK ISSUES: KIDS DISCOVER issues are available singly or in bulk. Available issues are:

Pyramids, 5 Senses, Oceans, Earthquakes, America 1492, Weather, Space, The Maya, Roman Empire, Light, Colonial America, Explorers, Buried Treasure, Ancient Greece, Knights & Castles, Energy, Solar System, Lincoln, Brain, Elephants, Native America, Lewis & Clark, Heart, Leonardo da Vinci, Ancient China, Civil War, Wetlands, Jefferson, Immigration, Inventions, American Revolution, Climate, African Kingdoms, Blood, Thomas Edison, Water, Detectives, Pioneers, Rainforests 2, Mesopotamia, Eyes, Inca, Language, World War II, George Washington, Maps, Microbes, Shakespeare, Martin Luther King, Jr., Hawai'i, Bones, Titanic, Wright Bros., Antarctica, Butterflies & Moths, Roaring '20s, Ancient Egypt, Moon, Industrial Revolution, Marco Polo, Sacagawea, Ecology, Aztecs, Rocks, Ellis Island, Hurricanes, Medicine, Mississippi River, 1776, Sun, 7 Wonders, Rain & Snow, Southwest Peoples, Spiders, World War I, Lakes, Ancient India, Firefighters, Money, Ice Age, How America Works, Germs, Space Exploration, Middle Ages, Caribbean, Statue of Liberty, Earth, Mark Twain, Telescopes, Bridges, Bicycles, Everglades, Plains Indians, Skin, Samurai, Suffragists, Underground Railroad, Electricity, Revolutionary Women, Simple Machines, Volcanoes, Mummies, Bees, Mountains, Teddy Roosevelt, Colls, Mexico, Rain Forests, Civil Rights, Lungs, Atoms, Great Depression, Plants, Nutrition, Insects, Grand Canyon, Pompeii, Planets, Birds, Ancient Persia, Jackie Robinson, Extreme Weather, and Muscles.

BACK ISSUES OF KIDS DISCOVER ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!
Parents please visit www.kidsdiscoverparents.com.
Teachers please visit www.kidsdiscoverteachers.com.



EDITOR: Stella Sands

ART DIRECTION: Hopkins/Baumann

DESIGNERS: Will Hopkins, Mary K. Baumann, Joseph Lee, Angela Esposito

DESIGN ASSISTANT: Jane McFadden

PHOTO RESEARCH: Carousel Research Inc.:

Laurie Platt Winfrey, Fay Torresyap, Jennifer Goerk Lyden, Robin Sand, and Van Bucher

ACTIVITIES WRITER: Lois Markham

COPY EDITOR: Lois Markham

PROOFREADER: Amy Handy

FACT CHECKER: Nayda Rondon

AUTHOR: Stella Sands

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & PUBLISHER: Judith Princz

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Cynthia Crane

SUBSCRIBER/EDUCATOR SERVICES: Sonia Forde

MARKETING DIRECTOR: Lorene Frederick

CONSULTANT: Pace Development Group

CHAIRMAN & FOUNDER: Mark Levine

MAYA CONSULTANT: Professor Michael D. Coe, Department of Anthropology, Yale University. Special thanks to Jeffrey Stomper, Department of Anthropology, Yale University.

EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT: Janet C. Rotter, Head, Studio Elementary School, New York, NY

©2007 KIDS DISCOVER. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS:

Acme Design Co.: Map, p.2; Maya Math, p.7; Cartoons, p.18; Breaking a Code, p.19. Wood, Ronsaville, Harlin, Jr. Sitting Maya, Will Williams, pp.2-3; Three Maya Perods, Rob Wood, pp.3-4; Maya Working, Will Williams pp.8-9.

PICTURE CREDITS:

Cover: John Livzey. Art Resource: Scala, p.12, p.14 bottom right, p.15 top left. Kenneth Garrett, p.6 center right (Tikal), p.6 bottom right (stone tool), p.9 top right, p.15 bottom left and bottom right, p.17 top right, p.17 bottom. David Alan Harvey, p.16 top and center. Latin American Library, Tulane University, p.14 center right. Laurie Platt Winfrey Inc., p.6 left (sculpture). John Livzey, p.6 left (ball game), p.6 bottom left (stairway). After John Montgomery, cover inset and p.15 top right (glyphs). Courtesy Museum of New Mexico, photo by Jesse L. Nusbaum, negative #60861, p.15 center left. Odyssey Productions/Chicago: Robert Frerck, cover inset (Chichén Itzá), p.4 center right (statue), p.5 center (tomb), pp.6-7 top, p.7 center right (mural), pp.12-13 top, p.17 top left. Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Photograph by C.I.W., p.5 center (stela), p.13 top. After Diana Griffiths Peck, p.13 center right (Monkey-man scribe and Rabbit God). Photographers/Aspen: David Hiser, p.2, p.4 center (deer), p.14 bottom left, p.16 bottom left. From Proskouriakoff 1963, fig.1, p.6 top left. Eric Sander, p.16 bottom. Courtesy George Stuart, National Geographic Society, cover inset and p.15 center right (David Stuart). The University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, negative #61-4-267, p.7 bottom (Long Count). Wide World Photos, p.17 center right. Woodfin Camp: Kenneth Garrett, pp.10-11, p.17 center left; David Alan Harvey, p.5 center right, p.9 top left, p.17 top left (loom); Kal Muller, p.4 center left (house); Mireille Vautier, p.5 center left (sarcophagus lid), p.7 center left (codex), p.12 top left (Cortés), pp.12-13 center, pp.14-15.



Highest Achievement Children's Magazine Category



Winner of a 1996 and 1997 Parents' Choice GOLD Award