

1. By looking at the art of the Maya, what seems to be important in their lives?
2. What does the art tell us about the role of women compared to the roles of women in our society today?
3. How do the religious symbols and their use in art and daily life compare with the use of religious symbols and religion today? What roles did maize and cacao play in the religious life of the Maya?
4. What does the figure of the maize god reveal about life in the court?
5. How do the hierarchy and interactions of kings, queens, and courtiers compare with those of government officials today?
6. Look at the cylinder vase showing Itzamna, the Moon Goddess. Think of the types of paintings and sculptures that artists create today. Do they represent the same kinds of things as the art of Maya?
7. What symbols of power are shown in the art of the Maya? What symbols of power do we have today?
8. Look at the cylinder with the court scene. What evidence is shown on the cylinder to indicate the wealth and status of the man pictured? What are some of the outward signs of wealth and good living for modern people?
9. If corn or maize represented wealth and success to the Maya, what serves the same purpose for us? How do they compare?
10. Look at the carving of the queen drawing the thorned rope through her tongue? What did this represent? Do you believe that suffering and sacrifice must always precede success and good fortune? Why or why not?
11. Why was sacrifice and bloodshed expected of Maya leaders?
12. Look at the pieces of art that show Maya warfare and captive prisoners. How were the reasons for going to war similar to or different from those used by modern leaders?
13. What do these pieces of art tell us about Maya warfare?