

1. **By looking at the art of the Maya, what seems to be important in their lives?**

The cycle of season, food, the king and his court as leaders, relationship with the gods.

2. **What does the art tell us about the role of women compared to the roles of women in our society today?**

Women of the court played important roles, but probably did not have the choices that women have 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?**

Religious symbolism was part of court life, not a personal choice like it is today. There were gods representing maize and cacao, because these crops allowed the Maya to survive.

4. **What does the figure of the maize god reveal about life in the court?**

The king and court imitated their image of the Maize God in their appearance.

5. **How do the hierarchy and interactions of kings, queens, and courtiers compare with those of government officials today?**

Leadership was passed down through families, or achieved through power struggles. The leaders had a special relationship with the gods.

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?**

We often show daily life in art, but we also create art for art's sake.

7. **What symbols of power are shown in the art of the Maya? What symbols of power do we have today?**

Maya symbols of power: weapons, depiction of war captives, jewelry. Symbols today: flags, buildings such as the White House.

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?**

Maya: Fat stomach, long nails. Today: cars, clothing, big houses.

9. **If corn or maize represented wealth and success to the Maya, what serves the same purpose for us? How do they compare?**

Money, clothes, cars, etc.

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?**

The queen sacrificed her blood for her people. Students will have various answers and comments.

11. **Why was sacrifice and bloodshed expected of Maya leaders?**

To ensure favor of the gods and life for the Maya people.

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?**

Answers will vary Reenacting of Maya battles is an important difference.

13. **What do these pieces of art tell us about Maya warfare?**

Possible answers: the power of the king, the pain and suffering of the captives.