

*LC: What are the similarities and differences between my society and Mayan society?*

*HS: Noting connections, contrasts and trends over time*

Nov 15-17:24

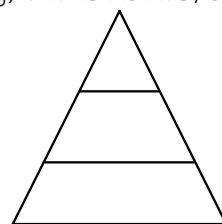
*What is society?*

*Society is a group of individuals living as members of a community.*

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*Who are the members of our society?*

*In our society, who is the most/least important?*



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*How does Mayan society compare?*



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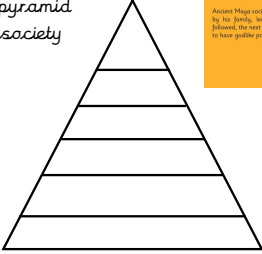
## Maya Society

Ancient Maya society was made up of different levels. The king was at the top, followed by his family, leaders and other nobles and royals. Craftspeople and merchants followed, the next were farmers and the slaves were at the bottom. Kings were thought to have godlike powers.




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Task - Create a pyramid to show Mayan society



Maya Society

Ancient Maya society was made up of different levels. The king sat at the top, followed by his family, nobles and other rulers, and priests. Craftsmen and merchants followed. The poor were farmers and the slaves were at the bottom. Kings were thought to have godlike powers.




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The status of a person was indicated by the amount of adornment they wore and how large their headdress was.

Huge palaces and pyramids were built high with religious structures on top of them as the Maya thought that this brought them closer to the gods in heaven. Some pyramids were also used for observing the sun, moon and stars. Their movements were very important to the Maya. It was from buildings like these that the Maya managed to measure their years so accurately.

On special public holidays, great celebrations were thrown and only on these occasions did the commoners manage to get a glimpse of the king and his royal entourage. The Maya king would have his own court of wives, jesters, musicians and dwarves.

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Mayan Kings

Maya kings were seen to be godlike. Their power was shown through huge temples and monuments. Upon the death of a Mayan king, there would usually be war and bloodshed for the next place on the throne.

However, on one occasion, this did not happen. When King Pacal I died on the battlefield, his people decided to invite a young prince from a different city to take the throne. His name was also Pacal and he was only 12 years old. He became a very powerful king and went on to build the largest stepped pyramid of Mesoamerica in the city of Palenque (below, left). He is also known as 'Pacal the Great' and the jade mask in the photo below was found in his tomb.

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Peasants

The common people and peasants would have lived in very simple houses made from wood with thatched roofs. The houses were built on platforms made from stone or dirt to keep them safe from floods. It is these platforms that have been found as evidence for the houses. The dead were also buried under these houses. The Maya people of today still live in very similar houses.

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Writing a comparison of our society and Mayan society.

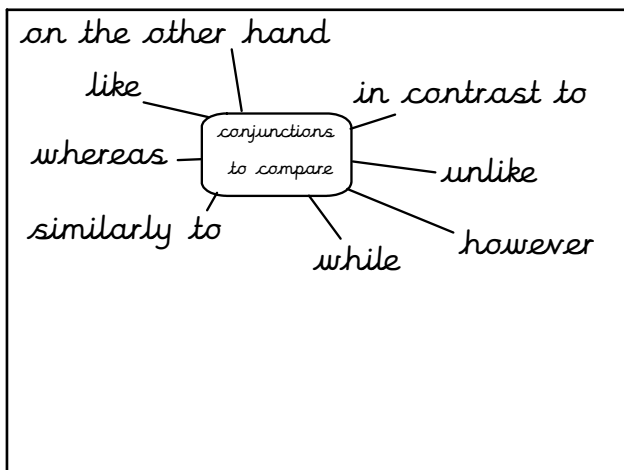
Think: What is similar? What is different?

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Record this table into your books

Similarities	Differences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our Queen is at the top of our society and the King is at the top in Mayan society.</li> <li>- The King had help from the nobles and the Queen has help from the Government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People are seen equal in our society but not in Mayan society</li> <li>- In Mayan society, peasants lived in wooden houses</li> <li>- In our society, people live in brick houses</li> </ul>

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Nov 15-19:44

Task: Write a paragraph to compare our society with Mayan society. Use the comparison conjunctions to help you.

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**Example**  
 In our society all workers are seen as equal, whereas in Mayan society, people were seen as more important depending on their job. For example, crafts people were more important than farmers. In our society the Queen is at the top, similarly to the King in Mayan society. However, in contrast to our Queen the Mayan King was viewed as Godlike. This is not the case in our society. In our society we have a Government, which is just as important as the Queen, because they make decisions for our country. On the other hand, in Mayan society the King ruled and made the decisions - although he would have had help from the nobles. Another difference between our society and Mayan society is that peasants lived in wooden and straw houses, while all people in our society live in brick houses.

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Which society structure do you think is preferable (best) and why?

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Dec 15-20:50