

ANCIENT ARTIFACTS

Archaeologists are scientists who search for artifacts so they can learn more about ancient places and the people who lived there in the past. They make inferences and draw conclusions about the meaning of the artifacts to figure out how or why the items were used by a group of people. "Dig" through these clues to learn more about the ancient Maya culture.

PART 1: Match each artifact with the fact about Maya culture that best describes it. Write the letter that matches on the line.

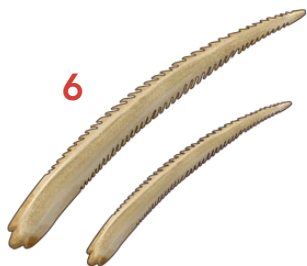


ARTIFACT:

1. cacao pot ____
2. metate ____
3. arrowhead ____
4. scepter ____
5. ballcourt marker ____
6. stingray spines ____
7. tooth inlays ____
8. shell goggles ____
9. incense burner ____
10. plumbate pot ____

MAYA FACT:

- A. an instrument used to grind maize
- B. highly decorated glazed pottery used for trade
- C. dental fillings often made of jade and usually reserved for the Maya elite
- D. an item used to communicate with the gods
- E. a vessel used to hold a sacred food
- F. protective wear used by Maya warriors
- G. a staff used by a Maya king
- H. a circular feature that established a dividing line between teams in Maya ball games
- I. instruments used for bloodletting
- J. a weapon made from obsidian, a volcanic glass



PART 2: Make inferences about how the ancient Maya used the artifacts above. On the back of this page, sort the items into the categories below.

- Daily Life
- Adornment
- Ritual/Ceremony
- Recreation