

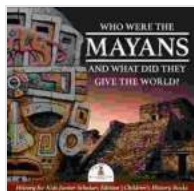
# Who Were The Mayans And What Did They Give The World History For Kids Junior

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Step into the fascinating world of the Mayans, a remarkable civilization that flourished in the ancient Americas. Their legacy extends far beyond their

iconic pyramids and enigmatic calendar, enriching our understanding of science, art, and human history. Join us on an exciting journey as we unravel the secrets of this extraordinary people and discover the profound impact they had on our world.



## Who Were the Mayans and What Did They Give the World? | History for Kids Junior Scholars Edition |

**Children's History Books** by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English

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Print length : 215 pages



### Origins and Early History:

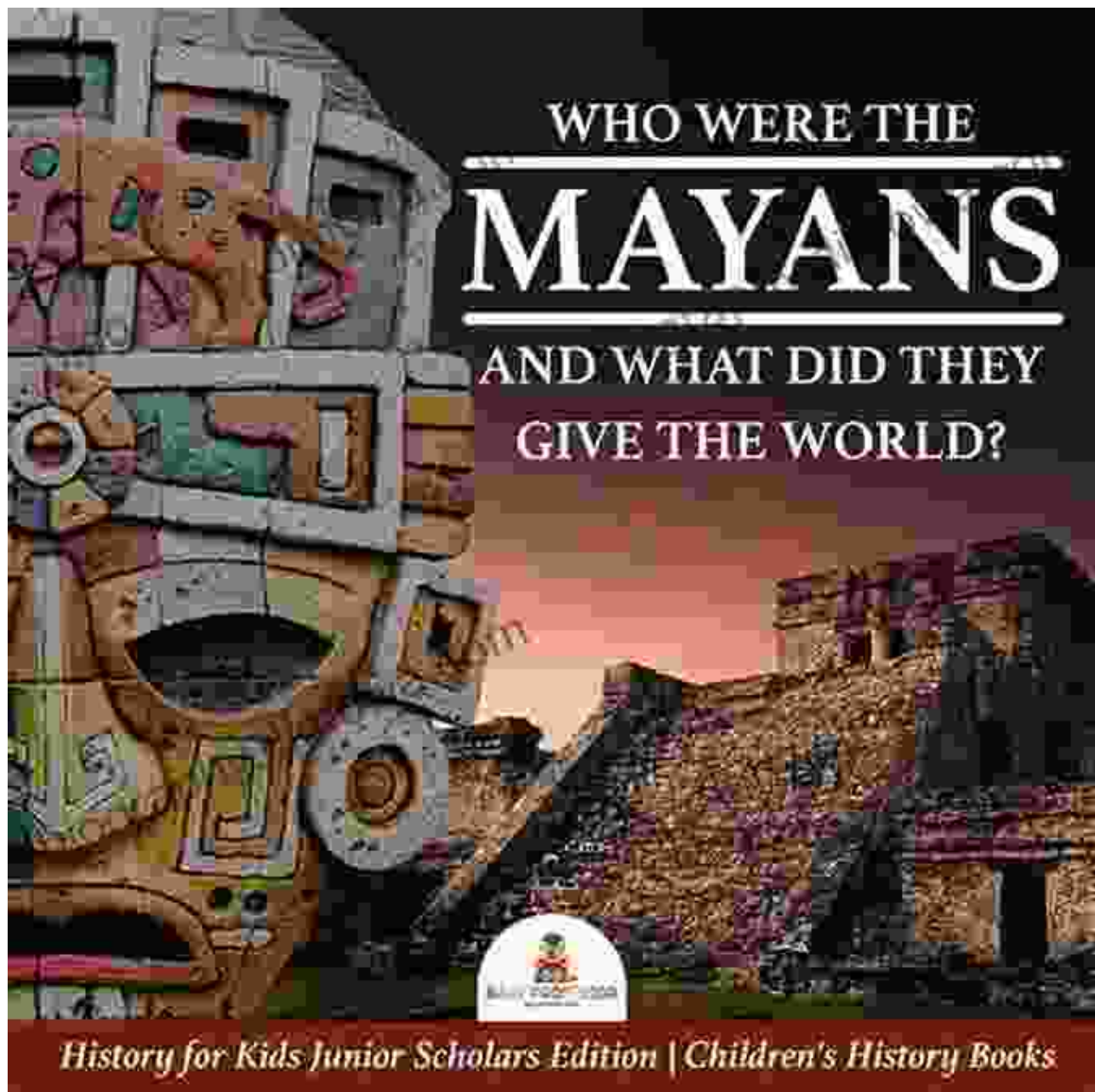


The Mayans emerged in the lush rainforests of Mesoamerica around 2000 BCE. Their civilization thrived for centuries, reaching its peak during the Classic period (250-900 CE). The Mayans developed a sophisticated writing system, hieroglyphs, which allowed them to record their history, beliefs, and scientific knowledge.

**Brilliant Astronomers and Mathematicians:**



The Mayans possessed an extraordinary understanding of astronomy. They developed complex calendars, including the famous Long Count calendar, which tracked time with remarkable accuracy. Their knowledge of celestial bodies enabled them to predict eclipses, solstices, and other astronomical events.



The Mayans were also brilliant mathematicians. They invented the concept of zero, a revolutionary development in mathematics. Their complex system of numbers and units allowed them to perform intricate calculations and solve mathematical problems.

### **Splendid Architecture and Cities:**



The Mayan civilization is renowned for its magnificent architecture. They constructed towering pyramids, vast palaces, and sprawling cities. These structures showcased their architectural prowess and served as ceremonial and administrative centers.



Mayan cities were hubs of activity, with marketplaces, temples, ball courts, and elaborate irrigation systems. They were centers of commerce, culture, and learning, fostering a thriving and interconnected society.

### **Complex Society and Art:**



Mayan society was highly organized and hierarchical. It consisted of kings, priests, nobles, commoners, and slaves. Each group had specific roles and responsibilities within the community.





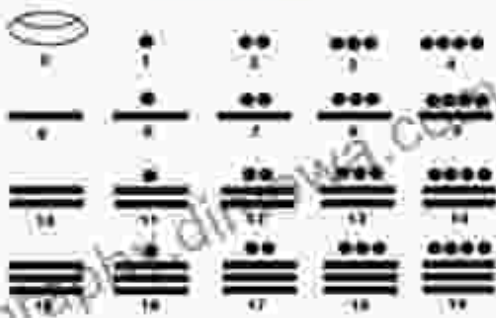
The Mayans were also gifted artists. They produced exquisite sculptures, paintings, ceramics, and textiles. Their art often depicted mythological scenes, historical events, and everyday life.

**Legacy and Impact:**



The Mayan civilization collapsed around 900 CE, due to a combination of factors including environmental changes and political instability. However, their legacy lives on. Their calendars, mathematical knowledge, and architectural marvels continue to inspire us today.

# Math & Astronomy



- Religion = development of calendars, math, & astronomy
- Calendars very accurate
  - Days lucky or unlucky b/c of gods; had to know
  - Two linked calendars:
    - 260 & 365 days
- Based on positioning of the sun, moon, & planets
- Math system based on 20 & included zero = accuracy

Mayan astronomy had a profound impact on the development of science. Their observations and calculations laid the foundation for modern astronomy and influenced the work of Copernicus and other later scientists.

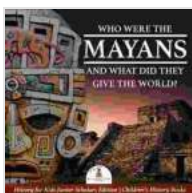


Today, the descendants of the Mayans continue to thrive in Central America. They have preserved many of their traditions, languages, and cultural practices, providing a living connection to this ancient civilization.

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The Mayans were a remarkable people whose contributions to science, art, and civilization continue to enrich our world. Their legacy serves as a testament to human ingenuity and the enduring power of knowledge. As we explore the ancient mysteries of the Mayans, we not only gain insights into the past but also inspire our future generations to dream big and achieve their full potential.



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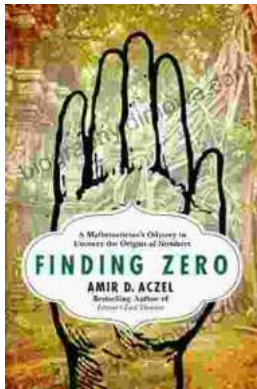
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