

A Closer Look at Maya **Social Structure**



Social Structure

- The Maya society had different levels.
- At the top was the king and his family.
- Next came the council/priests (often from the royal family)
- Then came the nobles.
- After that came the craftsmen, merchants, & traders
- Below them were the farmers.
- Slaves were at the lowest level.

Class Society



← KING (AJAW)

Often members of King's family →



← PRIESTS

*Hepled Ajaw run city-state
*Fought Battles →



← NOBLES

*traded for resources
*Made items for royals and nobles →



← MERCHANTS & ARTISANS



↗ FARMERS
*largest group
*Had to grow enough food for themselves and people in cities

← SLAVES
*captured enemies

Social Structure and Clothing

- The clothing and headdresses that the people wore indicated how powerful the person was in the society.

Royals and Nobles

- Wore layers including animal skins such as jaguars and clothing made from brightly colored cloth
- They wore sandals and jewelry made from jade.
- They inserted small pieces of jade into their teeth.

Villagers

- Wore simple clothes that were easy to work in

Social Structure and Headdresses

- Many Maya wore fancy headdresses
- The more complicated and higher the headdress, the more powerful the person wearing it was.



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