



A Selection of Popular LARC Resources about the Maya

The LARC Lending Library has an extensive collection of educational materials for teacher and classroom use such as videos, slides, units, books, games, curriculum units, and maps. They are available for free short term loan to any instructor in the United States.

These materials and many more can be found on the online searchable catalog:
<stonecenter.tulane.edu/lendinglibrary>

After the LARC resources, we have also listed suggested external web resources, professional organizations and conferences, and local places to visit that are relevant for the study of Maya culture.

LARC FILMS

The Americas before the Europeans: 300-1500

Recreates the Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations of Central and South America, and probes the reasons these empires were unable to withstand conquest by Spanish explorers. Grades 7 and up. 1984. English. 26 minutes.

Breaking the Maya Code

There are over six million Maya today. They have a rich and vibrant culture, and have guarded their traditions with great care. But for four centuries they have been a people cut off from the written record of their own extraordinary past. For almost 2000 years, the ancient Maya recorded their history and ideas in an intricate and beautiful script. Then, in the 16th century, Spanish invaders burned their books and ruthlessly extinguished hieroglyphic literacy. By the 18th century, when stone inscriptions were discovered buried in the jungles of Central America and bark-paper books began to surface in the libraries of Europe, no one on earth could read them. *Breaking the Maya Code* is the story of the struggle to unlock the secrets of the hieroglyphs, arguably one of the most complex writing systems ever created. It is based in large part on the book by archaeologist and historian Michael Coe, himself intimately involved in the decipherment story. This is a detective story filled with misunderstandings and false leads, rivalries and colliding personalities. It leads us from the jungles of Guatemala to the bitter cold of Russia, from ancient Maya temples to the dusty libraries of Dresden and Madrid. Through one of the great intellectual achievements of the past 200 years, the words of the ancient Maya scribes have begun to speak once more. Spanish, English, and Mayan. 1 hour, 55 minutes.

Cakchiquel Maya San Antonio

The Tunecos are an indigenous Central American people who speak Cakchiquel, one of the more than 20 Mayan languages still spoken in Guatemala. This film explores the effects of encroaching modernism on their traditional way of life. English subtitles. 51 minutes.

Daughters of Ixchel: Maya Thread of Change

Guatemalan Maya women are renowned for their weaving and textiles. The economic, political, and cultural forces which affect these artisans are vividly illuminated in this documentary. English. 29 minutes.

Dictator in the Dock

A 23 episode short film series from the genocide trial of Efraín Ríos Montt. The *Dictator in the Dock* series brings viewers into the courtroom as former dictator General Efraín Ríos Montt stands trial for genocide



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and crimes against humanity in Guatemala. This historic case marked the first time, anywhere in the world, that a former head of state was tried for genocide in a national court, in the country where the crimes were committed. It is also the first time in the history of South or North America, that the genocide of indigenous peoples was tried in a court of law, significantly in a country of the Americas with a majority indigenous population. Spanish with English subtitles. 140 minutes.

Discovering Dominga

When 27-year-old Iowa housewife Denese Becker decides to return to the Guatemalan village where she was born, she begins a journey towards finding her roots, but one filled with harrowing revelations. Denese, born Dominga, was nine when she became her family's sole survivor of a massacre of Maya peasants. Two years later, she was adopted by an American family. In *Discovering Dominga*, Denese's journey home is both a voyage of self-discovery and a political awakening, bearing searing testimony to a hemispheric tragedy and a shameful political crime. English. 54 minutes.

El Futuro Maya: Voces del Presente

Within a simple structure of basic questions, Maya from different language groups, different ages and genders, different walks of life--students, housewives, academics, community leaders, and educators--provide perspectives on their culture and on the meaning of the Maya Movement. English. 46 minutes.

Granito: How to Nail a Dictator

Sometimes a film makes history; it doesn't just document it. So it is with "Granito: How to Nail a Dictator." Part political thriller, part memoir, Yates transports us back in time through a riveting, haunting tale of genocide and returns to the present with a cast of characters joined by destiny and the quest to bring a malevolent dictator to justice. This film relates the process of trying to bring Rios Mont, former dictator of Guatemala, to trial for his atrocities. Spanish with English subtitles. 82 minutes.

Incidents of Travel in Chichen Itza

This original ethnographic film depicts how New Agers, the Mexican state, tourists, and 1920s archaeologists all contend to "clear" the site of the antique Maya city of Chichen Itza in order to produce their own idealized and unobstructed visions of "Maya" while the local Maya themselves struggle to occupy the site as vendors and artisans. The setting is the spring Equinox when a shadow said to represent the Maya serpent-god Kukulcan appears on one temple pyramid. As more than 40,000 New Age spiritualists and secular tourists from the United States and Mexico converge to witness this solar phenomenon, the film depicts the surrounding social event as a complicated entanglement of expected dualisms concerning tourism. English. 90 minutes.

Ixcanul

The brilliant debut by Guatemala filmmaker Jayro Bustamante is a mesmerizing fusion of fact and fable, a dreamlike depiction of the daily lives of Kaqchikel speaking Mayans on a coffee plantation at the base of an active volcano. Immersing us in its characters' customs and beliefs, *Ixcanul* chronicles with unblinking realism, a disappearing tradition and a disappearing people. Kaqchikel and Spanish with English subtitles. 91 minutes.

Lighting the Ancient Past: Exploration of Maya Caves

Uses elaborate Maya Cave paintings to introduce and illustrate Maya history and culture to younger students. Middle school and high school. English. 17 minutes.



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The Living Maya

A documentary produced in the 1950, this film shows footage of the Lacandonese in a natural setting. No soundtrack, but provides an interesting look at how the Lacandonese lived until recently. English. 75 minutes.

The Living Maya: Parts 1, 2, 3, and 4

This series documents life in a Yucatan village, focusing on one family over the course of a year. The films explore the ancient agricultural and religious customs that ground contemporary Maya life in traditional values – even as modern Mexico comes to the village. Part 1: Introduces the village of Chican and the Colli-Colli family, and examines the structure of Maya agricultural and village life. Part 2: Hard-pressed by an illness in the family, the Colli-Colli face financial and emotional challenges using traditional solidarity to muster resources and comfort. Drought threatens the village's crucial corn crop. Part 3: As the Colli-Colli resolve their difficulties and the village harvests a mediocre corn crop, viewers are left with an understanding of the underlying rationales of Maya life and with questions about their own assumptions, priorities, and values. Part 4: The Colli-Colli's two youngest sons plead to be placed in school in Merida – the first of their family to reject traditional life. Directed by Hubert Smith. 1985. Maya, Spanish and English, with English subtitles. 4 parts, 58 minutes each.

Lost Kingdoms of the Maya

This documentary shows ruins of ancient Maya cities, recreates rituals, and interviews surviving descendants of the Maya. National Geographic. 1993. English. 60 minutes.

Maya: Lords of the Jungle

Elaborate public ceremonies, complex farming and trade relations, and a highly developed culture are hallmarks of the Maya civilization explored by archaeologists and linguists. PBS film. 1993. English. 58 minutes.

Maya: The Blood of Kings

From Time-Life's Lost Civilizations series, this film explores the richness and complexity of Mayan society through examination of archaeological ruins in Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala. Time-Life. 1995. English. 48 minutes.

Popol Vuh: The Creation Myth of the Maya

Portrays the creation myth of the Quiche Maya of Guatemala. These myths surrounding the birth and death of the first fathers of the underworld, spread throughout native American cultures. This film is animated using actual Maya artwork found on pottery and in murals. Although it is animated, it is intended for high school and adult audiences. 1986. Available in two versions. Specify long or short version. English. 60 or 29 minutes.

Popul Vuh

This animated short from Chile tells the tale of creation based on "Popul Vuh: the Ancient Stories of the Quiche," written by the indigenous Maya Quiche people after the Spanish Conquest. The vibrant illustrations are taken from Mayan codices, paintings found on vessels, and stones carved with scenes from the "Popul Vuh" between the years 300-900 A.D. Accompanying the narrator is original music performed with pre-Columbian and other ethnographic instruments from the Americas. The text relates solely to the creation of the world and humankind, and gives the viewer a unique look into Mayan culture and history. Perfect for the K-12 classroom. Directed by Ana María Pavez. 2006. Spanish with English subtitles. 10 minutes.



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Quest for the Lost Maya

Quest for the Lost Maya follows American archaeologists George Bey and Bill Ringle and their Mexican colleague Tomas Gallareta Negron as they find startling evidence of a forgotten Mayan society in the Yucatan. Buried beneath an ancient pyramid deep in the Yucatan jungle, the team discovers a still more ancient royal palace complex. English. 55 minutes.

Tales from the Latin American Indians

This film has animated folktales from the Aztec and Maya. English. 29 minutes.

Todos Santos Cuchumatan: Report from a Guatemalan Village

This film looks at one Mam village in the mountains of Guatemala, focusing on what remains of the traditional style of daily life and on the many socio-economic changes which have affected that lifestyle. Icarus film. 1982. English. 41 minutes.

Todos Santos: The Survivors

A documentary showing the effects of political violence on one traditional highland village, Todos Santos Cuchumatan. This film was produced as a follow-up to Report from a Guatemalan Village. Icarus film. 1989. English. 51 minutes.

Satsun: My Apprenticeship with a Maya Healer

Sastun tells the story of American herbalist Rosita Arvigo, whose quest to explore the healing powers of plants led her to the rain forest of Belize where she befriended one of the last remaining Maya shamans, Don Elijo Panti. While learning his secrets during her apprenticeship she unearthed her life's work: to preserve Don Elijo's ancient healing knowledge and to bridge the gap between science and traditional healer's wisdom. Funded by the National Cancer Institute in New York, Rosita Arvigo is in a race against time, scouring the tropical rain-forests of Central America in search of cures for many deadly diseases like AIDS and Cancer, before they are wiped out by deforestation. 2001. English, Spanish and Mayan with English subtitles. 20 minutes.

Sentinels of Silence

Winner of two Academy Awards, this documentary short presents views of seven of the most important archeological sites of Mexico: Teotihuacan, Monte Alban, Mitla, Tulum, Palenque, Chichen-Itza, and Uxmal. Information is very basic, but photography is outstanding. 1980. English. 18 minutes.

Sipakapa is not for sale

Montana Exploradora, subsidiary of the Canadian/US transnational company Glamis Gold, received 45 million US dollars in financing from the World Bank to exploit an open-pit gold mine in Sipakapa, Guatemala. In accordance with ILO Convention 169, a Community Consultation was held in this Maya region to establish whether the population would accept or reject mining exploitation in its territory. The result was a resounding "NO" to mining. *Sipakapa Is Not For Sale* analyses the debate on mining exploitation and demonstrates the dignity of the Sipakapan People as they fight to defend their autonomy in the face of encroaching neoliberal megaprojects. Spanish with English subtitles. 55 minutes.

Spirits of the Jaguar Part B: Forests of the Maya

The temples of the Maya rise above the tropical forest canopies of southern Mexico and Guatemala. The Maya began as simple farmers and became the most successful civilization of the Americas. They took inspiration from the trees and the jaguar and they studied the stars, and developed a writing system, architecture and calendars. And then they disappeared. The Spirits of the Jaguar series combines wildlife footage with dramatic recreations and computer simulations to bring the ancient world of the Aztecs, Maya and Taino civilizations to life. 1997. English. 60 minutes.



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Tajimoltik (Five Days without Name)

The Maya calendar consists of 18 months of 20 days each or 360 days. The five remaining days, known as the "days without name," or Chaikin, are the days of Carnival. These days of transition, which coincide with the Catholic Holy Week, are thus filled with celebrations which combine elements from Spanish Catholicism with traditional rituals and cargo fiestas. Reflections on the meaning of the colorful events of these days are offered by the French priest Michel Chanteau. Spanish with English subtitles. 30 minutes.

Via Dolorosa (The Sorrowful Way)

Every year, in the colonial city of Antigua, Guatemala, the "sorrowful way" of Good Friday is recreated by a path of colored sawdust and flower petals. Along this road several hundred people take turns carrying a ponderous mahogany bier. Maya from the surrounding countryside come to observe the spectacle of townspeople garbed in Biblical and Roman military uniforms. Although some elements from this kind of procession have been borrowed by the Maya villagers, the contrast between the Spanish formality of this urban Via Dolorosa and the syncretic, lively, Indian festivals such as those in Tajimoltik could not be more striking. Spanish with English subtitles. 10 minutes.

Worlds Apart

In Southern Belize, Pedro, a 23 year old Maya, with the help of Indigenous partners from Canada, is combining ancient wisdom with modern technology to help preserve the rainforest and the Maya's way of life. Roads, logging, lack of land rights and a devastating hurricane are just a few of the challenges Pedro must face in his battle to preserve the rainforest and its treasure trove of medicinal plants. In his efforts to protect and rejuvenate the rainforest, Pedro is learning both the ancient wisdom of traditional healers and modern techniques of satellite mapping. Maps like the ones Pedro is learning to make are being used by Maya leaders in negotiations with government for a co-management agreement that will give the Maya a say in how their ancestral lands will be developed. But, if the Maya and other Indigenous peoples of the world are going to win their struggle with development it will be up to young people like Pedro to create a sustainable balance between traditional and modern lifestyles. 2002. English. 48 minutes.

LARC Books and Other Print Resources

Aztec Inca & Maya

Eyewitness book comparing the three major pre-Columbian civilizations of Latin America. This book is filled with photographs of masks, pottery, tools, etc., as well as illustrations of buildings and rituals. Many topics are covered, and the detail level is geared towards elementary school students. English. 64 pages.

The Maya: Activities and Crafts from a Mysterious Land

Discover the Ancient Maya Culture with these fun games and activities. Make a Maya pyramid. Mix up a Chili chocolate drink. Create a macaw headdress. While reading this book you will have a great time exploring the cultural traditions of this innovative people as you learn to write in the Mayan language, make a mosaic jade mask in the likeness of one of the rulers, and test your skills as you play Maya games. This book is filled with activities and projects that will show you how the Maya people lived and played, as well as how they managed to create a civilization that lasted almost 4,000 years! You'll learn about the bravery of the Maya warriors as you construct a war shield. You'll discover how to read ancient Maya hieroglyphs and even create your own glyph rubbing, just like the scribes used to do! You'll get to solve math problems by using Maya numbers and then come up with your own problems to try on your friends! Plus, you'll find lots of amazing Maya facts on topics ranging from history and government to foods and arts to science and architecture. So be prepared for lots of fun as you discover the ancient secrets of the Maya. Written by Arlette N. Braman. English.



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Maya Designs

The Precolumbian civilizations had some masterly artists -- this coloring book contains their finest artwork. There are ballplayers, dancers, calendars, counting devices and a pantheon of gods to be colored. Ages 9-12. Copyright 1985 and 2008. 41 pages.

Mayeros

About thirty miles from the ancient Mayan ruins of Uxmal is the small village of Teabo, where Armando and Gaspár live with their family today. They call themselves Mayeros: the people who speak the Mayan language. For four thousand years, Mayan people have lived in what is now Yucatán, Mexico. During the peak of their civilization (300-900 AD), they built great stone cities, developed an accurate calendar, knew the paths of the stars and planets, and recorded their history in hieroglyphic writings. But at some point, the great Mayan cities were mysteriously abandoned, and when the Spanish began to arrive in Yucatán in 1527, Mayan customs began to change. For more than five hundred years, the Maya have been adapting their traditions to those the Spanish introduced, and vice versa. Today Armando's and Gáspar's lives are a blend of ancient Mayan and modern Spanish traditions--a blend that keeps changing as the modern world comes more and more to Teabo. In this loving photodocumentary, George Ancona captures Armando, Gaspár, and their family as they are at this moment in their history. This book is also available for download along with an accompanying curriculum unit through the "resources" section on the Stone Center website. See "curriculum units" section below for details.

Popul Vuh: A Sacred book of the Ancient Maya

In Guatemala in 1558, a young Mayan K'iche' man, who had learned to write the K'iche' language in Latin characters, transcribed the sacred book, the Popul Vuh. It is a written account of the creation of the universe, the gods, and demi-gods in that universe, and the story of how humans were created by them. Furthermore it traced the lineage of the Maya lords down to their imprisonment and torture by the Spanish invaders. A Spanish priest, Francisco Ximenez, found this document in his church in Chichicastenango in 1701 and translated it into Spanish. Thus the sacred book of the Maya has come down to us. This beautifully illustrated version of the Popul Vuh, retold by Victor Montejo, and illustrated by Luis Garay, allows today's young readers to discover one of the most ancient literary works of the Americas. English.

LARC CURRICULUM UNITS

Beyond the Book: Mayeros - A Yucatec Maya Family

The curriculum is based entirely on George Ancona's book, *Mayeros: A Yucatec Maya Family*. The thematic approach of the curriculum allows educators to introduce students in grades 4 through 6 to the characters in the book as well as to deeper concepts of culture, environment, history, and lifestyles. Each activity in the curriculum uses examples presented in the book as starting places for explorations of both modern Maya and the students' own cultures. The activities are multisensory, using photographs, actual artifacts, text, and manual projects that encourage students to become actively engaged in the learning process. <<http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/articles/detail/350/Beyond-the-Book-Mayeros-A-Yucatec-Maya-Family>>

Maya Culture in the Classroom Materials

Materials from a previous Tulane Maya Symposium teacher workshop. Available for download from the LARC site. <<http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/articles/detail/263/Maya-Culture-in-the-Classroom-Materials>>



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Introducing the Ancient Maya to the Classroom

This packet introduces students to the ancient Maya calendar system, writing, archaeology, ball game, trade, and more facts about ancient Maya civilization and the techniques modern scholars use to study it. Downloadable in sections or complete 30 page packet at

<http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/articles/by_category/2/resources>

Signs of Change: A K-12 Curriculum on the Contemporary Maya

Inspired by the Latin American Resource Center's 2012 Summer Teacher Institute, *Signs of Change: A Glimpse of Past & Present Cultural Landscapes of Guatemala*, this curriculum unit was designed to examine the culture, language, and geography of the Maya during an important moment in the Maya calendar; December 21, 2012 marked the end of the 13th b'ak'tun cycle and the beginning of a new cycle. This unit follows an interdisciplinary model of incorporating area studies across disciplines in order to construct a deeper understanding of the Maya and creates a more comprehensive approach to teaching global competence. Units include Art, English Language Arts, and Spanish.

<http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/articles/detail/1401/Signs-of-Change-A-K-12-Curriculum-on-the-Contemporary-Maya>

SUGGESTED EXTERNAL RESOURCES

Caracol Archaeological Project

<<http://www.caracol.org/>>

This website for Caracol, a major Maya archaeological site in Belize, includes great resources for kids, including a story describing the life of 10 year-old Elyse, the daughter of archaeologists at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, who spends months every year living with her family to Belize during excavations and lab work at the jungle site.

Center for Latin American Studies, Vanderbilt University

<<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/clas/outreach/curriculum-resources/>>

This site provides links to several curricula and PowerPoint presentations on Latin America including several that focus on ancient Maya culture

Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, Inc. (FAMSI)

<http://www.famsi.org/>

This is an excellent website for the study of Mesoamerica. Includes information on the "end of the world" issue, interactive date conversion where you can type in a date and it will give you that date in the Maya calendar. Detail on Maya and other Mesoamerican archaeological sites. The site also has a teacher's guide book as well as guides and coloring books on the Maya glyphs, Maya days, and Maya months.

Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC)

<<http://lanic.utexas.edu/>>

Many of the resources on this site are designed to facilitate research and academic endeavors, it has also become an important gateway to Latin America for primary and secondary school teachers and students, private and public sector professionals, and just about anyone looking for information about Latin America.

Maya Vase Database and A Pre-Columbian Portfolio

<<http://www.mayavase.com/>>



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These are databases of Maya vase rollouts and photographs of Pre-Columbian artifacts by Justin Kerr. The objects pictured are from archaeological sites, museums and collections throughout Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, the United States, Canada and Europe.

Mesoamerican Ballgame

<<http://www.ballgame.org/>>

Excellent interactive site on the Mesoamerican ballgame where you can both watch and virtually play the game.

Mesoweb

<http://www.mesoweb.com/>

This site has a variety of articles, reports, and photographs about recent excavations in the Maya area. Excellent source to familiarize oneself with the Maya area and obtain photographs for classroom use.

National Geographic Education: Mapping

<<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education>>

A wealth of resources about a variety of topics. Includes information on making maps, geography, history, social studies,

National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI)

<<http://www.nmai.si.edu/>>

San Diego Museum of Man

<<http://www.museumofman.org/>>

This site is a great educational resource, including "Anthropologist's Journal: Maya Kings and Queens: Rituals and Responsibilities," a packet of activities about the Maya found at

<<http://www.museumofman.org/education/scavenger-hunt>>

Teaching about the Maya

<<http://digonsite.com/grownups/TchgMaya.html>>

This site includes recommendations for print resources, websites, and links to both ethnographic and archaeological videos on the Maya that can be streamed in RealOne Player or Windows Media Player formats.

LOCAL PLACES TO VISIT

Art of the Americas collection

New Orleans Museum of Art

<<http://noma.org/>>

The New Orleans Museum of Art has developed a unique *Arts of the Americas* collection, surveying the cultural heritage of North, Central and South America. The Latin American collection ranges from the pre-Columbian period through the Spanish Colonial era and is especially rich in objects from the great Mayan culture of Mexico and Central America, and in painting and sculpture from Cuzco, the fabulous Spanish capital of Peru. The Native American collection includes works of art from the ancient Anasazi peoples to



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Indian artists and artisans still working today. NOMA's collection of art from the United States provides a fascinating overview of the nation's cultural history in paintings, decorative arts, and sculpture from the 18th century to the present day.

Jaguar Jungle Audubon Zoo

<<http://www.auduboninstitute.org/>>

Visit elusive jaguars as they stalk their glass-fronted exhibit in Jaguar Jungle. Jaguars are the most sacred animals of Mayan lore, and at Audubon Zoo they reside in a misty Mayan rainforest known as Jaguar Jungle. Take a moment to learn about the environment, animals, people and cultures of the verdant jungles and rainforests of South America with our recreated ruins, a dig site where young archeologists can unearth treasures and amazing animals like the jaguars, spider monkeys, sloths, anteaters and toucans.

The Latin American Library Tulane University

<<http://lal.tulane.edu/>>

The Latin American Library is among the world's foremost collections of Latin American archaeology, anthropology, history, literature, literary criticism, cultural studies, linguistics, art, architecture, film, women's studies, economics and many other subject areas. The collection consists of more than 420,000 volumes, including over 500 current periodical subscriptions, and is one of the most comprehensive of its kind, including materials from the contact period to the present.

Middle American Research Institute (MARI) Tulane University

<<http://www.tulane.edu/~mari/>>

Founded in 1924, the Middle American Research Institute (M.A.R.I.) at Tulane University has been supporting research in Middle America for over 85 years. The Institute also stewards an extensive collection of textiles and artifacts from not only Mexico and Central America, but also the US Southwest and South America. It also houses a large archive of letters, field notes, maps, and photographs from the scores of field projects it has sponsored. Furthermore, the Institute continues to support a variety of anthropological, archaeological, ethnohistorical, linguistic, and ethnographic research projects throughout Mexico and Central America.