

**MAYA**  
**HIDDEN WORLDS REVEALED®**

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## Trumpeter Figurine

This conch blower figurine, which appears in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*, dates to the Postclassic period (10th to early 16th century) at Santa Rita Corozal in Belize. Since it was uncovered in a cache that was buried as part of a new year/renewal ceremony to mark the turning over of one period and the beginning of another, researchers believe the conch blower is calling in the new year. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in the exhibition.

*Courtesy of the National Institute of Culture and History*



## Crocodile Effigy Vessel

For the Maya, the cosmic crocodile symbolized the world afloat the dangerous waters of Xibalba. Here, a god emerges from the crocodile's mouth. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

*Courtesy of the National Institute of Culture and History*



## Tripod Vessel

This pot, with its head-shaped handle and tripod support, was discovered in a royal tomb in Santa Rita Corozal, Belize. Its cylindrical shape and blocky legs copy a popular style from Teotihuacan, a powerful capital in Central Mexico. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

*Courtesy of the National Institute of Culture and History*



## Figurines: Warriors, Women with Cloth, Crocodiles, Sharks, Snakes, and Jaguars

Archaeologists found these figurines, 28 in all, inside a large urn. They were created for and buried during a ritual intended to welcome a new year and ensure it would be a favorable one. Sixteenth-century Spanish friars described ceremonies that match those depicted in the Madrid Codex and represented by these figurines. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

*Courtesy of the National Institute of Culture and History*



## Cylinder Vase

The glyphs on this vessel refer to K'ul Ahaw K'ak Tiliw Chan Chaak, a powerful king of Narajo. But archaeologists found it in a nobleman's tomb at the modest site of Buenavista del Cayo. The vase was probably a gift from the king to reinforce ties between two communities. The figures on the vase act out the Maya creation story. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

*Courtesy of the National Institute of Culture and History*



## Face Cache and Lid

The whiskery fish barbels on the faces of these commonly found containers suggest a connection to the underworld. The jars and the offerings inside them sanctified household shrines and facilitated communication with ancestors. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

*Courtesy of the National Institute of Culture and History*



## Mask

Archaeologists found this mask in a tomb in Belize. During ceremonies, royalty wore masks on their belts or chests. This deified-ancestor mask linked its owner to the gods, vividly illustrating his power. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

*Courtesy of the National Institute of Culture and History*



## Mosaic Earflares

Ear ornaments had significance for the Maya that exceeded simple adornment or beautification. They believed that the ears—like the eyes, mouth, and nostrils—were pathways to the mind, soul, and other spiritual dimensions. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

*Courtesy of the National Institute of Culture and History*



## God K Eccentric Flint

Featuring two profiles of the Lightning God, this finely worked piece of stone may have adorned a royal scepter. Expert flintknappers fashioned eccentrics such as this one out of high-quality chert from Belize, and an object like this was a powerful symbol of prestige and status. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

*Courtesy of the National Institute of Culture and History*



## Mosaic Mask

The mask was found in the tomb of Great Scrolled Skull, a ruler of Santa Rita Corozal in Belize during the Early Classic period (AD 250-900). A symbol of power, Great Scrolled Skull probably wore it as an ornament on his belt or on a necklace. The mask's jade, shell, and obsidian were attached to an organic backing that had decomposed, so when it was found, it was a pile of chips that had to be put back together. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

*Courtesy of the National Institute of Culture and History*



## Inkwell

A Maya scribe used this halved conch shell for mixing and storing paints. While shell ink pots often appear in Maya art, few actually survive. This inkpot is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts featured in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

*Courtesy of the National Institute of Culture and History*



## Tripod Bowl with Offering

This bowl contains a sacred offering of copal resin topped with rubber pellets and beads of jade and shell. Someone deposited it in a cenote—a water-filled sinkhole and entrance to the underworld. The low-oxygen environment preserved the offering for centuries. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

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## Ball Court Marker

From opposite sides, two players lunge at a rubber ball. Though eroded beyond recognition, the six glyphs probably name the competitors shown here. Carved markers, such as this one, marked the end zones and center lines of Maya ball courts. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

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## “Denver Panel”

Inscriptions on this stone panel from Denver reveal that it was carved in one of several kingdoms that battled along today’s Guatemala-Mexico border. Together with a companion panel in a Brussels museum, they tell a tale of revenge and bloodshed. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

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## Polychrome Plate Showing a Warrior

This brightly colored plate made for burial with the dead shows a warrior covered in black body paint, clutching a feathered spear. In his jaguar robes and headdress, he embodies the strength and power of the predatory jungle cat. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

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## Stone Ball Game Yoke

This decorative stone yoke, ornamented with warriors and jaguars, represents the heavy-duty belts worn by Maya ballplayers to protect their midsections during play. Carved stone yokes are often found as burial offerings along the Gulf Coast of Mexico. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

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## Funerary Urn with God Head

On this ceramic urn, a god emerges from the watery underworld through the jaws of a fanged serpent. The god's filed teeth form a T-shape—the Maya sign for “wind” and “breath.” This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

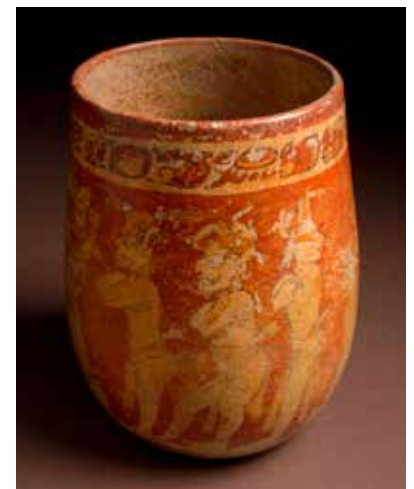
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## Polychrome Vessel with King on Throne

Maya rulers and priests could travel between worlds and speak directly to the gods on behalf of the health and protection of their people. On this ceramic vessel, the nine “lords of the night” approach a ruler seated cross-legged on a throne. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

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## Incense Burner from Palenque

The swirling eyebrows, prominent nose, and fangs on this incense burner base represent the lightning god, K'awiil, who splits open the earth allowing seeds to grow. Temple attendants burned offerings in a receptacle on the top—now missing. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

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## Bloodletting Bowl

Maya royals appealed to the gods for approval, protection, and intervention in human events through blood sacrifice. This figurine depicting a man seated in front of a deep bowl captures the moment prior to a bloodletting ritual. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

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## Huipil

Though made only a few decades ago, this huipil (or blouse) is very similar to one depicted in a 1,300-year-old carving from Yaxchilan, Mexico. Weaving patterns and other elements of traditional Maya dress have survived for centuries. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

Courtesy of the Science Museum of Minnesota

