

# MAYA

**HIDDEN WORLDS REVEALED.®**

This document includes images of visitors in the exhibition for use in marketing of *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*. Title, caption, credit line and usage terms are included for each image. If you need additional information, please contact April Tellez at 619.255.0189 or [atellez@sdnhm.org](mailto:atellez@sdnhm.org).



## Stela A

To assert their direct link to the gods, rulers commissioned carved stelae, the glyphs and images from which described a ruler's royal pedigree or his or her role in historical or mythological events. Erecting these stones in public places was one way leaders proclaimed their power. Today, stelae are the most important source of information on Maya kings. Visitors to *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* will see replicas of two such stelae, witness their massive size, and see the incredible detail in the scenes they depict.

*Courtesy of the Science Museum of Minnesota*



## Name Glyph Generator

At the Maya Name Glyph Generator activity, visitors to *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* will deconstruct a king's name, seeing all the different sounds signs contained in a single glyph, hearing the name pronounced, and finding out what it means before creating their own Maya names to print out and take home.

*Courtesy of the Science Museum of Minnesota*



## Altar Q (Replica)

Altar Q is not only a monument, but one of the most important historical records at Copan, a Maya site in Honduras. The top tells the story of the dynasty's founder, while the sides show each king sitting on an altar made from the glyph that represents his name. Visitors can get an up-close look at the magnificent craftsmanship and innovation that went into creating this piece and others like it in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

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## Watching the Skies

For the Maya, the sun, moon, stars and planets represented powerful gods who affected human destiny. Through careful everyday observation of the skies, they created calendars to predict and prepare for celestial events. Visitors to *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* will explore an entire section devoted to the famous Maya practice of watching the skies that features both ancient and contemporary artifacts, video interviews and multimedia activities.

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## Maya Calendar 1

The Maya tracked time using several calendars of different lengths. They were the only pre-Columbian society to use a fixed point—their mythological date of creation—from which to count chronological records. Visitors will use modern technology to explore the famous ancient Maya calendar in *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

Courtesy of the Science Museum of Minnesota



## Maya Calendar 2

The Maya are famous for their sophisticated timekeeping skills, but what do we really know about the Maya understanding of time? Visitors to *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* will learn about how the Maya kept track of time and used it to predict and prepare for celestial events. Computer interactives will allow them to learn how all of the different Maya calendar systems fit together.

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## Build an Arch

Maya builders used corbeled arches to create doorways and interior spaces, which limited the sizes of their rooms. In *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*, visitors will experiment with building their own corbeled arches out of blocks and explore dozens of hands-on activities that dig into Maya life during the Classic period.

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## How Much Does the Ball Weigh?

Maya ballplayers used a heavy, bouncy ball to play ritual and recreational ball games. Europeans, whose wood, leather and cloth balls didn't bounce, were amazed by the sport and the balls used to play it. Visitors to *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* will experience the surprising weight of the ball and delve deeper into what we know about the social and cultural impact of the ancient Maya ballgame.

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## Visitors with Xunantunich Frieze Replica

Maya builders reflected their worldview in their colorful and imposing cities. Visitors to *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* will see this huge re-creation of a section of a famous frieze from the El Castillo pyramid in Xunantunich, a Maya civic ceremonial center, and watch as projection technology “paints” the frieze in the vibrant colors it may have featured thousands of years ago.

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## Make a Pattern

Contemporary Maya weavers draw on thousands of years of tradition to create complicated brocaded designs. The patterns express the weaver's vision of the world and her place in it. Visitors to *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* will explore the history of this ancient art form and create their own patterns out of colored blocks.

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## The Incense Burner

The Maya used censers to burn offerings—food for the gods—and create portals between the human and divine worlds. In *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*, visitors will see this authentic censer, which features the face of the Lightning God, K'awilil, who splits open the earth to allow seeds to grow. This is one of more than 200 authentic artifacts included in the exhibition.

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## Actun Tunichil Muknal Theater

Actun Tunichil Muknal, a cave in highland Belize, contains items that tell the story of a struggle for survival at the end of the Classic Period of Maya civilization. Visitors to *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* will learn more about the excavation that has taken place at the site and what it has revealed to us about the Maya understanding of death and rebirth.

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## Exploring the Bonampak Mural Room Model

The murals of a temple at Bonampak, a Maya site in Chiapas, Mexico, provide an unparalleled view of elite life and warfare in ancient Maya society. Visitors to *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* will see a detailed model of one of the temple's rooms, then walk inside a re-creation and see a story of ancient life unfold through its vibrantly-colored murals.

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## Burial Site Touch Table

The Hunal Burial Touch Table lets visitors to *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* digitally explore a tomb that archaeologists have discovered beneath a pyramid at Copan, Honduras. As they sweep away the dirt and debris from what remains below it, they'll discover who was buried there.

Courtesy of the Science Museum of Minnesota



## Examining the Bonampak Murals

The murals of Bonampak provide an unparalleled view of elite life and warfare in ancient Maya society. Visitors to *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* will walk inside a life-sized re-creation of a mural room at a temple in Bonampak, a Maya site in Chiapas, Mexico, and see vibrantly-colored scenes depicting Maya elite engaging in court rituals and human sacrifice.

Courtesy of the Science Museum of Minnesota



## Assembling Pottery

Visitors to *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* will piece together a Maya pot, just as an archaeologist would in a lab with sherds found in the field. They'll see how painstaking this kind of work can be and discover what we can learn about the people who made and used them.

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## Try Bow Drilling

The Maya saw teeth filing and jeweled inlays as signs of beauty and community, and they were also a testament to the physical fortitude of the people who wore them. Visitors to *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* will explore the Maya concept of beauty and try their hand at using a bow drill in dental modification.

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