

# Sources of evidence about the Maya

What kind of evidence is this?

- Picture?
- Writing?
- Object?
- Building?



Pictures can show us what people looked like, and what was important to them.

Writing can tell us details like names and dates.

Objects can tell us how people made things.

Buildings tell us what life would have been like.



It comes from all four sources:

It has a picture of a Maya woman seeing a vision of a snake.

It is a carved object that has come from a Maya site.

It has writing on it (the squares) which tell us the woman was a queen.

It was a lintel that was carved to go above a doorway in a temple.



### Argument prompts

#### Which source of evidence is most useful?

##### Pictures

Pictures are most useful because...

- they show you what people looked like
- they show you how people used the objects you find
- they show you people doing things

Some arguments against the other three types of evidence:

- It's difficult to work out what objects were used for
- Writing only tells you part of the story and they miss out a lot
- Buildings don't look like they used to when Maya people were using them

##### Objects

Objects are the most useful because...

- you can work out what they are made of how they were made
- you can work out what they were used for by comparing them to more recent objects
- they tell you about people other than kings and queens

Some arguments against the other three types of evidence:

- Pictures only tell part of the story as not everything is drawn
- Writing can be difficult to translate, especially when it's written in Maya glyphs
- Looking at buildings doesn't tell you what they were used for

##### Writing

Writing is the most useful because...

- it tells you people's names and what they did
- it tells you the date of things that happened
- it has a lot of detail about what happened

Some arguments against the other three types of evidence:

- It's sometimes difficult to work out what's going on in a picture
- Objects are often broken
- Buildings are only part of the story because they don't have the objects inside them any more

##### Buildings

Buildings are the most useful because...

- we can see what the cities people lived in looked like
- we can imagine what life was like by visiting them
- we can work out what they were made of and how people made them

Some arguments against the other three types of evidence:

- Objects are only part of the story because not all objects survive, many of them rot away
- Pictures could be drawn from someone's imagination and not show what it was really like
- Writing can be biased so it tells you only about important people