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Professor Mendoza

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**“Palenque Metropolis of the Maya”**

**3. How might the study of the modern Maya stone quarry near Palenque contribute to our understandings of the early history and construction of the ancient metropolis of Palenque?**

The study of the modern Maya stone near Palenque shows that this limestone was brought from the mountains. This is evidence that Maya didn’t have the technology or anything to carry those stones. They used their people efforts in order to built this amazing empire.

**6. Given the meaning of the "T" shaped window openings in the "White Stone House," what was symbolized by the inverted or upside down "T" shaped openings in the subterranean chambers of the same structure?**

It is interesting how the T shaped windows play an important role in Palenque because the T shape symbolizes an entrance where wind and light passes through. And in the subterranean they had the T upside down meaning darkness and the underworld. In this specific area only shamans and kings had access to enter to the underworld in order to realize sacrifices.

**10. How is the role of the ball court at Palenque characterized or described in the history and pagentry of the ancient metropolis?**

The ball court played an important role in their civilization because if we take a closer look to the architecture we found that that this game was a battle between living or dying. And it can be seen on the architectural design of the T shaped ball court; T meaning life and the upside down T shaped meaning dead. This place was used for sacrifices and they knew that someone would dye. Also, I learned that the blood of the defeated players was used to cover the ball court.

**9. What was your impression of the Temple of the Inscriptions, and how was this structure built to accommodate a most invaluable centerpiece and source of inspiration?**

The temple of the inscriptions is a very important architecture and unique. The way the people of Palenque were experts in making blades made this temple such an amazing place because we can see all the inscriptions that they were able to design and create with their blades. Also this temple is very important because this is the place were in 1949 archeologist Ruiz found Pacal’s tomb. His bones were found in a sarcophagus with a jade mask and the lid had 640 glyphs.

**14. What do archaeologists now believe the jade cube and sphere held in the hands of Pacal signify, and why? How do these symbols in turn pertain to the building of the ancient metropolis?**

Those two elements were important for Pacal because he was the first king in building a pyramid in that area. its been discovered that he had the knowledge to design a city. His people used sticks and ropes to create distance and built their empires. With the ropes and sticks the people was able to draw perfect circles and with four circles they were able to create a square structure. Archeologists now have proof that Pacal’s inspiration was nature and we can see it on the shapes. This is why Pacal held a square and a circle in his hands, because he discovered this technique by creating a Metropolis in Palenque.