Nobles and priests were the only people who could read and write in the ancient Maya world.

Nobles did not appear in public without one of their slaves holding a cloth in front of their face so the commoners couldn’t see them.

No common person could speak to a noble. If a commoner wanted to communicate with a noble, they had to speak to a noble's attendant.

Nobles did not have to pay taxes but still had to follow the law. If a noble was found guilty of a crime, they were often punished even more severely than a commoner.



**Education**

The children of the nobles would have been educated by priests in maths, science, astronomy, medicine, writing and other subjects.

**Living conditions**

The nobles lived inside the city in large palaces made from stone.

The nobles had slaves to do all their manual labour work for them.

**Entertainment**

Religious ceremonies were the main source of entertainment. They also played music, danced, and played ball games.

**Job / Lifestyle**

Most nobles did not have a job but if they wanted one they were given jobs important jobs in government.

They had a great deal of free time and lived lives of luxury and were even carried from place to place by slaves.

They spent a great deal of time on their personal appearance.

**Clothing**

They wore colourful clothing made from animal skins, enormous hats or headdresses and wore loads of jewellery.

The more important the noble, the taller the hat or headdress they wore.

Only nobles could use feathers, and they used them on clothes, in their hair, on hats or headdresses and as jewellery.

Both men and women wore their hair long. They took time to plait their hair or wrap it up in elaborate styles.

**Food**

The Maya ate very well. The most important food that the Maya ate was maize. They made all types of food from maize including tortillas, porridge, and even drinks. They also ate beans, squash, and chilies. For meat the Maya ate fish, deer, ducks, and turkey.

Nobles would have also enjoyed a chocolate drink flavoured with chilli peppers.



