

Central American Gods Pack

The Maya worshiped many gods, they had over 150 in their complex religious belief structure. Each god had clearly defined characteristics and a purpose, be it the god of rain, the heavens or agriculture.

The items found within this pack are handmade items, made in Mexico. They are exported to us by a registered fair trade supplier.

These pieces will hopefully allow you to bring some awe and wonder to your history lessons and allow a greater depth to discussions about Maya gods and culture.

Pack Contains:

1. A jaguar mask replica. The jaguar was important in many Mesoamerican cultures, but probably most important in the Maya culture, where it was believed to inhabit both the natural world and the underworld, and so it became associated with shamanism and religious activities. Several Maya gods were attributed with jaguar appearances eg Xbalanque, and Maya priests were believed to wear jaguar masks to achieve a trance like state.
2. Mesoamerican human effigy - an image of a seated warrior (culture unknown). He is holding an axe which would have been made of wood with a blade of obsidian. Obsidian is a very hard volcanic stone which was used throughout Mesoamerica for centuries in both daily and cultural life. It was used in weapons, on tools, and for religious practices and has been found at most major Maya and other archaeological sites.
3. A wall mask probably of a god of maize. Maize was the staple diet of all the cultures of Mesoamerica and its sowing, growing, and harvest were vital to the survival of the whole population. So it gained religious importance and gods were worshipped and sacrifices made in the hope of ensuring a good harvest. Even today the maize is an important crop of Central America with tortillas made from maize flour being eaten in most homes.
4. A standing statue possibly of a priest (culture unknown). The priest throughout Mesoamerican had an important role to play. He was responsible for ensuring that religious days were observed and satisfying the various gods with sacrifices. In some cultures, these were human sacrifices. He also had the role of observing and understanding the various stages of the calendar, eg in the Maya calendar, each year had a five day period (the Wayeb) when it was feared that evil spirits would enter the world. During this time the priest performed many ceremonies and sacrifices to keep them away.