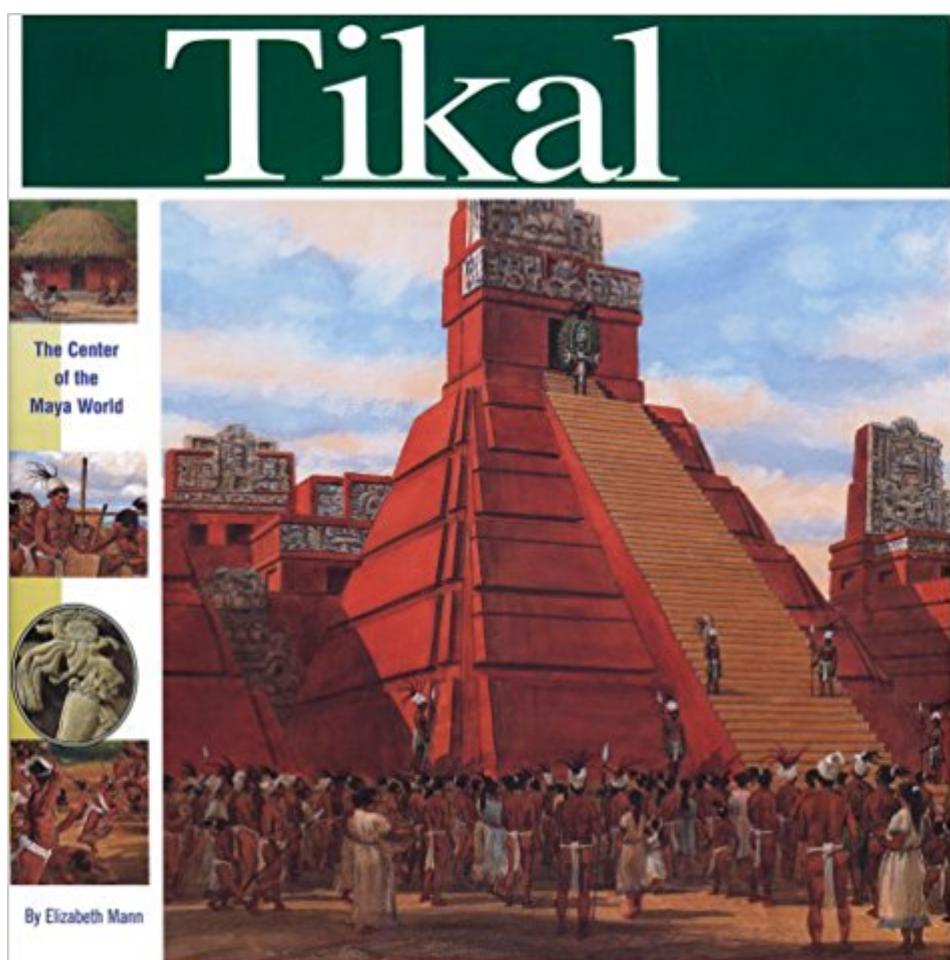


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Tikal: The Center Of The Maya World (Wonders Of The World Book)



Synopsis

During the first millennium AD, one of the world's great civilizations appeared in the dense jungles of Mesoamerica. All over the Yucatan Peninsula, the Maya mastered sophisticated principles of mathematics, architecture, agriculture and astronomy and created scores of powerful city-states. At the center of this world was the largest city of them all -- Tikal. Sprawling over twenty-five square miles, Tikal was situated in the heart of the Yucatan, near rivers that flowed to every corner of the Maya world. Tikal prospered from trade and military triumphs. Its rulers used its wealth to build a magnificent city of palaces, grand plazas and some of the largest stone pyramids seen in the Americas. As with all great achievements of a civilization, Tikal is a window into the culture that created it. By telling the story of the city -- from its humble beginnings, through its bloody wars, to its "golden age" -- Tikal illuminates the Maya world in all its grandeur, glory and genius. Wonders of the World series The winner of numerous awards, this series is renowned for Elizabeth Mann's ability to convey adventure and excitement while revealing technical information in engaging and easily understood language. The illustrations are lavishly realistic and accurate in detail but do not ignore the human element. Outstanding in the genre, these books are sure to bring even the most indifferent young reader into the worlds of history, geography, and architecture. "One of the ten best non-fiction series for young readers." - Booklist

Book Information

Series: Wonders of the World Book

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Age Range: 9 - 13 years

Grade Level: 4 - 8

Customer Reviews

Grade 4-8-This lavishly illustrated volume presents information on this Mesoamerican city, which flourished from 800 B.C.E. to around A.D. 900. Beginning with a discussion of the city's location on the Yucatan Peninsula, the informative text delves into the economic implications of its site on the Holmul River. The history that follows covers pyramid and home construction in general, the role of religion in the life of both the metropolis and its inhabitants, and the position of the city as either a conquering or a conquered city-state. A discussion of the disappearance of the Mayan civilization, including Tikal, wraps up the volume. Full- and double-page illustrations, executed in watercolor, are detailed and provide a fascinating reconstruction of life more than 1000 years ago. Reproductions of both artifacts and stelae also serve to extend the text. A clearly labeled foldout of Tikal in its heyday can be compared to a double-page photograph of the site as it looks today, giving not only pictorial evidence of the passage of time, but also an idea of how reconstructions are done. This is a fascinating look at a civilization that disappeared both mysteriously and abruptly. Ann Welton, Grant Elementary School, Tacoma, WA
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Gr. 4-8. This latest addition to the *Wonders of the World* series conveys the current understanding of the history of Tikal, a major city in the Mayan Empire between 800 B.C.E and 900 C.E. The author explains why the settlers chose the place; how the location (along the most passable trade route through Mesoamerica) factored into its success; and what is known about the people who lived there. Mann's narrative flows smoothly, and frequent, full-color illustrations, some of them double-page spreads, help to clarify the details mentioned in the text. The author does not sugarcoat discussion of Tikalian customs such as bloodletting, deadly sporting events, and human sacrifice, but she also talks about the people's impressive accomplishments, including the pyramids, the fine pottery, and the system of written expression. A glossary and a time line are appended, but there is, unfortunately, no list of sources. Even so, this will be welcomed by report writers. Kay Weisman
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Arrived in the condition stated. Thank you!

This is a very good book to get the attention of youth about the Maya. It is enjoyable for us oldsters too.

Elizabeth Mann's "Wonders of the World" series examine buildings and other structures that range

in time from Ancient Egypt to the Great Depression. Typically, her books begin by placing the featured building in their proper historical context. Once this context is established, Mann delves into the construction details of the buildigns. Each book is accompanied with detailed illustrations. It has been only in the last fifty years that the history of Tikal has been slowly unraveled with the decyphering of Mayan glyphs. Mann uses the latest archaeological findings to take young readers back to the 800's when Tikal reached its full glory. Mann writes well and both children and adults will enjoy reading the book. Of special note are the carefully rendered illustrations of Tom McNeely. His water color paintings remind me of the beautiful illustrations that graced John L Stephen's classic "Incidents of Travel in the Yucatan". Tikal is a great purchase for all those who love that heady mix of history and architecture. Highly recommended.

While the commentary is speculative, it attempts to paint a picture of the history and life of the Maya. It was close to what our guide told us when we were there. The 2-page photograph and 4-page foldout diagram are wonderful. The book is simplified enough for children yet detailed enough for adults to increase their knowledge.

This book is for children, not for adults that are planning a visit to Tikal. It was disappointing for that reason.

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