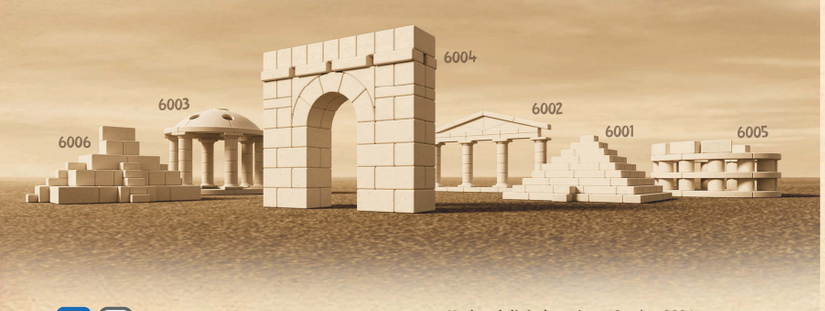


Discover other ancient building techniques with the Arch-Kid-Tech® series.



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Updated digital version – October 2026
Some earlier printed copies contain factual inaccuracies. This downloadable version has been reviewed and updated to correct those points.

Travel back more than a thousand years to the Maya world of Mesoamerica. Maya communities lived across what are now southern Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and parts of Honduras and El Salvador. Their cities developed over many centuries, each with its own rulers, monuments, and traditions.



During the Classic period, from about 250 to 900 CE, many Maya city-states flourished. They were never a single empire: cities formed alliances, traded, competed, and sometimes fought one another. Across the region, Maya builders created temples, palaces, plazas, and stepped pyramids that shaped civic and ceremonial life.

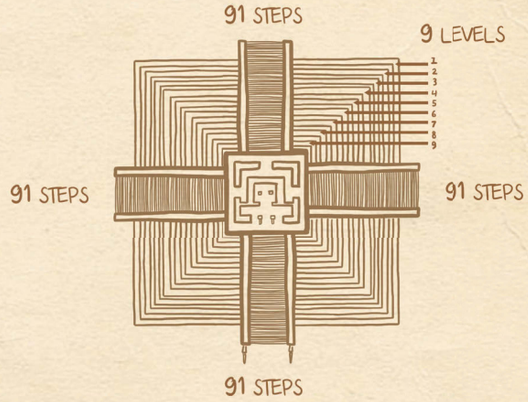


Maya scholars closely observed the sky and developed sophisticated systems of mathematics and calendars. Scribes recorded dates, rulers, rituals, and stories in their own hieroglyphic writing system, using signs that represented words and sounds. More than thirty Maya languages are still spoken today.

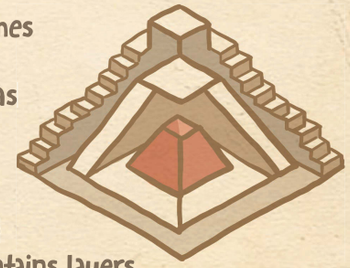
One of the best-known monuments at Chichén Itzá is El Castillo, also called the Temple of Kukulcán. Built between the ninth and twelfth centuries, it rises in nine stepped levels, with a staircase on each side and a temple at the top.



El Castillo has four stairways, each with 91 steps today. Together they total 364; with the upper platform, the design is often interpreted as a reference to the 365-day solar year. Nine stepped levels rise toward the temple, while serpent imagery marks the northern staircase.



Mesoamerican builders sometimes constructed new temples over earlier ones. El Castillo itself was built over an older temple, leaving one structure enclosed within another. The monument we see today therefore contains layers of construction built at different times.





In this model, that idea becomes something you can explore with your hands: begin with a smaller pyramid, then build outward around it until it becomes the core of a larger one.

Ready to see how one pyramid can become the core of another?

Find these pieces and let's start building!

28X 26X

13X 35X

1



4X

4X

2



2X

4X

3



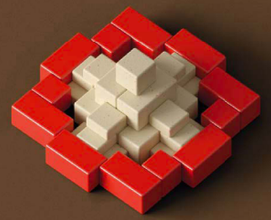
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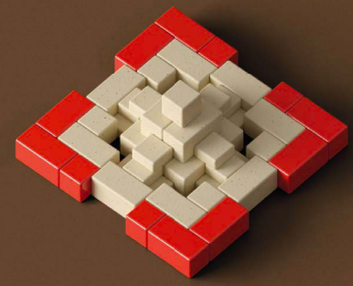
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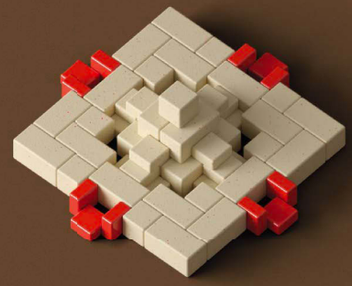
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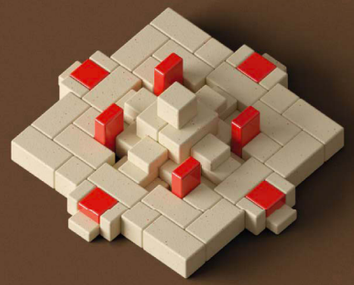
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6



12X

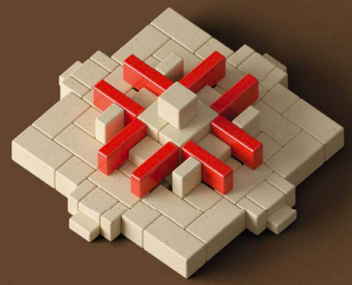
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4X

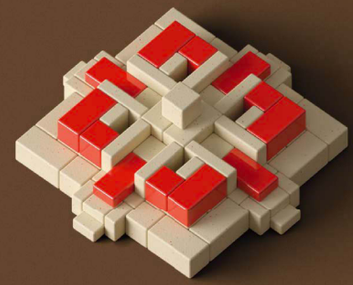
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8



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9

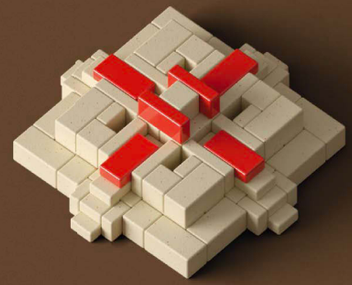


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4X

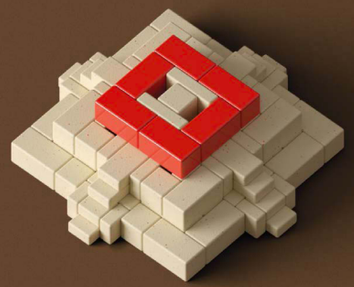
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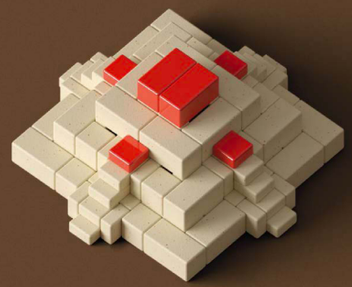
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11



6X

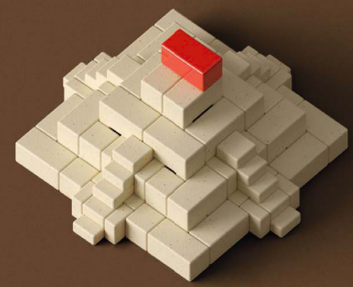
12



2X

4X

13



1X

✓

