

ACTIVITY!

SUPPLIES

ruler
pencil
piece of paper
scissors
5 sheets of thin cardboard such as the backs of old pads of paper
masking tape
glue
paintbrush
newspaper
red sand

Make Your Own MODEL OF A MAYA PYRAMID

Look at pictures of the Egyptian pyramids and note how they were different from Maya pyramids.

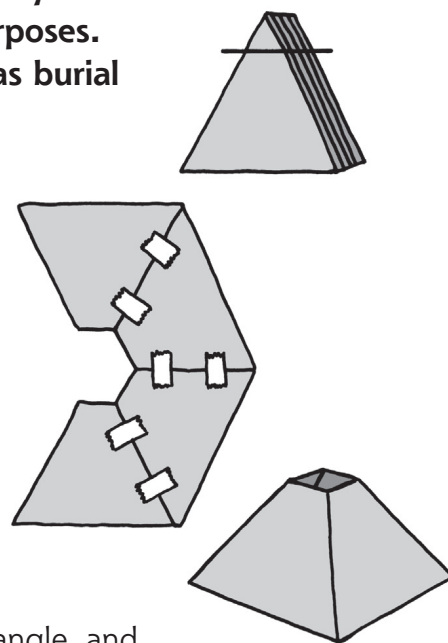
Build your own Maya pyramid and you'll understand why. Remember, Maya built their pyramids for religious purposes. Egyptian pyramids were built as burial tombs for their kings.

1 Use your ruler and pencil to draw an equilateral (all sides equal) triangle on your piece of paper. Make the sides at least 10 inches long (25 centimeters).

2 Cut out your triangle pattern and trace its shape onto each of four pieces of cardboard. Cut out each cardboard triangle, then stack them on top of each other. These will be the sides of your pyramid.

3 Draw a line about 4 inches from the top of each triangle, and cut off the top of each triangle at the same height (10 centimeters). Remember, the Maya built temples with flat tops! Set aside the snipped-off pieces—you'll need these to make the temple at the top of the pyramid.

4 Tape the four sides together as shown. Turn over the taped sides, fold them at the hinges, and stand it up. The tape should be on the inside. Seal the open side by taping it on the inside.



ACTIVITY!

5 From a scrap of one of the pieces of cardboard, cut a square big enough to cover the hole at the top of your pyramid. Glue this to the top of your pyramid to make the base of your temple.

6 Take the four small triangles you set aside and stack them. Draw a line across the top and cut off the tops. To make your temple, cut a small rectangle for a door in one of the triangles. Tape these pieces together the same way you taped together the larger pieces. Cut another square from scrap cardboard to cover the top of your temple.

7 Use your paintbrush to spread glue on the bottom of your smaller cardboard square. Place it atop the temple and allow the glue to set for a few minutes. Then spread glue on the bottom of your temple walls and place it atop the pyramid.

8 Cut four strips of paper about 1 inch wide and 8 inches long (2½ by 20 centimeters). Fold each like an accordion for steps. Attach each with glue to the center of a pyramid side. Allow the glue to set.

9 Cover your work surface with the newspaper, and then spread a thin coat of glue on one side of the pyramid and steps. Sprinkle red sand on top of the glue. Do this with the other three sides and the top. This will give the pyramid its distinctive red Maya appearance.

