

1. Description

1.1 Name of society, language, and language family:

Name of society: Yucatan and Chan Santa Cruz

Language: Yucatec

Language Family:

-Mayan

-Yucatecan

-Yucatec-Lacandon

-Maya, Yucatan and Chan Santa Cruz

(https://ww.w.ethnologue.com/show_lang_family.asp?code=yus)

1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com):

Yucatan: YUA

Chan Santa Cruz: YUA (use to be YUS but that code has since been retired)

(https://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=yus)

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude):

Quintana Roo

19°35'44"N 87°54'47"W

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yucatec_Maya_language)

1.4 Brief history:

No good history was found. Only history dating after 1850 during the Caste War was found.

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors:

1.6 Ecology:

Their land is on the easternmost part of the main peninsula of Mexico. There is a rich deposit of limestone within the ground of the peninsula. There are no major rivers that run through the land, so the people have to depend on the cenotes for their water source. The climate is warm and humid with much rainfall. (Ankli, 559)

1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s):

They planted a variety of crops. The most common were maize, tomatoes, cucurbits, and regional chilies.

(Humphries, 92-93)

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources:

The people raised cattle and chicken for food.

(Restall, 181)

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?:

Yes, they used bow and arrows, but after the Europeans arrived, they began using guns and knives as weapons, though they rarely used weapons for they were generally peaceful people.

(Restall, 356)

2.4 Food storage:

Yes, there was a structure for food storage.

(Restall, 179)

2.5 Sexual division of production:

Yes, there was a division of labor. The men would tend the farms and manage the cattle, while the females would maintain the house and make textiles, such as clothes.

(Restall, 230)

2.6 Land tenure:

Yes, there was land tenure. Land was divided up between communal and private areas.

(Restall, 110)

2.7 Ceramics:

Yes, ceramics were very important to these people. They would create elaborate bowls and pans, and they would trade them for other ceramics or for necessary goods.

(Restall, 204)

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:

They were expected to always share their foods with their immediate family, and in some instances, such as some kind of hardships, with their extended families.

(Hage, 8)

2.9 Food taboos:

2.10 Canoes/watercraft?

They had no need for canoes or watercraft for no major body of water was in close proximity to them.

(Ankli, 559)

3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f):

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f):

4. Life History, mating, marriage

4.1 Age at menarche (f):

~13 years old.

(Beyene, 15)

4.15 Age at menopause:

Average age is 42 years old.

(Dan, 171)

4.2 Age at first birth (m and f):

Average girl to give birth is 15 years old.

(Dan, 172)

4.3 Completed family size (m and f):

This varies for each family.

4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):

Average period was 2 years.

(Dan, 173)

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f):

Women typically got married right after their first period, so on average they got married around the ages of 13 and 14.

(Dan, 172)

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:

There were some conflicting data on this:

Divorce was very rare, for there was a high level of matrimonial stability. (Gossen, 402)

Divorce was actually very high. Some men were married 10 or 12 times.

(<http://yucatanoday.com/en/topics/mayan-marriage>)

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:

Little to none. The vast majority of this culture married monogamously.

(<http://yucatanoday.com/en/topics/mayan-marriage>)

4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?:

Yes, there was a dowry. The father of the groom would gift to the future-bride dresses and other low-valued items.

([Http://yucatanoday.com/en/topics/mayan-marriage.](http://yucatanoday.com/en/topics/mayan-marriage))

4.9 Inheritance patterns:

The pattern was bilateral. When the parents died, their belongings would be divided up evenly among all the children, with no favorability towards any sex. (Hage, 5)

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:

Daughters would typically not speak when their father was conversing with other adults.

(Restall, 219)

4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:

Homosexual activities were typically done under the radar. The social attitude on this subject was that the people accepted that it went on, but it was frowned upon.

(Sigal, pg 25)

4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy):

There was a pattern of endogamy. The parents preferred their child and their mate to be from the same social class and town.

(<http://yucatanoday.com/en/topics/mayan-marriage>)

4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these “other fathers” recognized?

No, only one father is recognized.

4.14 What is the belief of the mother’s role in procreation exactly? (e.g., “receptacle in which fetus grows”)

4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?

No, this was not believed by this society.

4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape

Very little. The people in this society, especially the males, were very peaceful and respectful towards one another.

(Restall, 291)

4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)

There was some preferential for a person to marry their bilateral cross cousin.

(Hage, 5)

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?

Yes, females enjoy all the freedoms as men. They were even allowed to leave their husbands and remarry if they choose.

(<http://yucatanoday.com/en/topics/mayan-marriage>)

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring

No, males were fully devoted to their wives, so they didn’t have any extramarital partners. If a male wanted a different female, he would simply divorce her.

4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?

4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females

4.22 Evidence for couvades

4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older)

4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?

4.24 Joking relationships?

4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations

The descent was predominantly bilateral. A person’s name came from both of their parents.

(Hage, 5)

4.26 Incest avoidance rules

Yes, there were incest avoidance rules for immediate family members.

(Restall, 54)

4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?

Yes, there was a formal marriage ceremony. It would typically take place at the father of the bride’s home, where a priest would oversee the marriage covenant. Afterwards a large feast would be provided for all the guests.

(<http://yucatanoday.com/en/topics/mayan-marriage>)

4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?

A person typically received two names. The first name was his mother’s matronym and the second was father’s patronym. If that person was a male then they would prefix the mother’s name with a Na-, while a female would prefix it with Ix-.

(Restall, 42)

4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?)

Within the community.

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?

Typically marriages were arranged by the parents.
(Restall, 16)

4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:

Warfare/homicide

4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:

4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing:

Typical causes of in-group killing and fighting is due to disputes over animals. Usually these fights are dealt with peacefully, but killing has been known to happen especially when alcohol is involved.

(Beyene, 87)

4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):

4.18 Cannibalism?

No, cannibalism wasn't a common practice.

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):

No, they were very sedentary.

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes):

5.4 Post marital residence:

The groom would live with the bride's family, while he does work for her mom for 6-7 years.
(<http://yucatanoday.com/en/topics/mayan-marriage>)

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):

No, there weren't any defined boundaries or active defenses.

5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex):

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:

5.8 Village and house organization:

The village layout was organized around who was related to who because usually families liked to cluster around each other.
(Restall, 259)

5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses):

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?

They slept in their huts on bed-like structures.
(Restall, 250)

5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:

They were organized according to their lineage and relationships with one another. Usually families clustered together.
(Restall, 259)

5.12 Trade:

They traded cotton, medicinal herbs, leather from their cattle, bee honey and wax.
(Restall, 181)

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?

Yes, there are clear indications of social hierarchies. But the exact tiers of this hierarchy could not be discovered.

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6 Time allocation to RCR:

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine):

Yes, there were priests who acted like shamans. They would create medicinal herbs for the people.
(Restall, 340)

6.2 Stimulants:

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal):

6.4 Other rituals:

They had two New Year Festivals: U K'in Crus (The Day of the Cross) and U K'in Kolel (The Feast of Our Grandmother)
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chan_Santa_Cruz#Pre-Columbian_period)

- 6.5 Myths (Creation):
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR:
- 6.8 Missionary effect:
- 6.9 RCR revival:
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy?
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.)

Chan Santa Cruz had a distinct religion from the rest of the Mayan society. Their religion was sometimes known as "The Cult of The Talking Cross". "This was most probably a continuation of native beliefs, emerging when the Spanish colonist's civil war released the Maya from the repressions of Yucatán's Hispanic population. The indigenous priests had maintained their ancient religious texts and the spiritual knowledge contained therein.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chan_Santa_Cruz#Pre-Columbian_period)

7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint:
- 7.2 Piercings:
- 7.3 Haircut:
- 7.4 Scarification:
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment:
- 7.8 Missionary effect:
- 7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

8. Kinship systems

- 8.1 Sibling classification system:
- 8.2 Sororate, levirate:
- 8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.):

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Numbered references

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12. "Chan Santa Cruz." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. Web. 29 Jan. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chan_Santa_Cruz>.