

**The Late Classic Maya Notes**  
Miller Chapter 8

**Key Images**

*Stela I*, Seibal, 869 CE.  
*Pyramid B*, Tula.  
*Atlantean columns*, Tula.  
*Chacmool*, Chichen Itza.

**Key Terms**

Elite wares	Atlatl
Caryatids	Coatepantli
Atlantans	Tzompantli

**Questions to Consider**

- Why does your book describe the collapse of Maya civilization a “gradual affair?”
- How is the Terminal Classic period characterized?
- What problem exists in the current time frames established by archaeologists?
- How did Maya elite wares change around 800 AD? Why is this significant?
- Describe the Mayan and non-Mayan influences exhibited by the wall painting from Structure A at Cacaxtla.
- How are Huastec sculptures characterized?
- Why are the Toltecs so important to Maya and Aztec history?
- Where do we get the notion that the Toltec civilization dominated Central Mexico?
- What is plumbate ware? What subjects are usually depicted on it?
- For what reasons does your textbook describe Tula as an experiment?
- What was the relationship between the Toltecs and the Itza?
- What important role does your book suggest architecture played at multi-ethnic Chichen Itza?
- What does the floor plan of the Caracol resemble? What does its plan and unusual placement of openings assist in?
- What god gained significance in the Early Postclassic period? Why?
- What was the Castillo used for? What occurs there on the equinoxes? How many steps in total does the building have?
- What leads experts to believe that a tomb may be located in the Castillo? Whom do they believe is buried there?
- What does your book describe as the most unusual structure at Chichen Itza? What distinguishes it? Describe the scenes that are carved in relief there.
- What kinds of works replace the stela and altars of Classic times at Chichen? What does this say about the civilization?
- What kinds of things have been excavated from the Cenote?
- How is Late Postclassic Maya art characterized?
- How many Maya manuscripts survive today? What is the oldest, and most complete one named?
- What text does your book describe as “the single most important sixteenth-century document in terms of Maya religious narrative?”