



# The Mayan ball game

*By Isaac Melvin*



# Origin

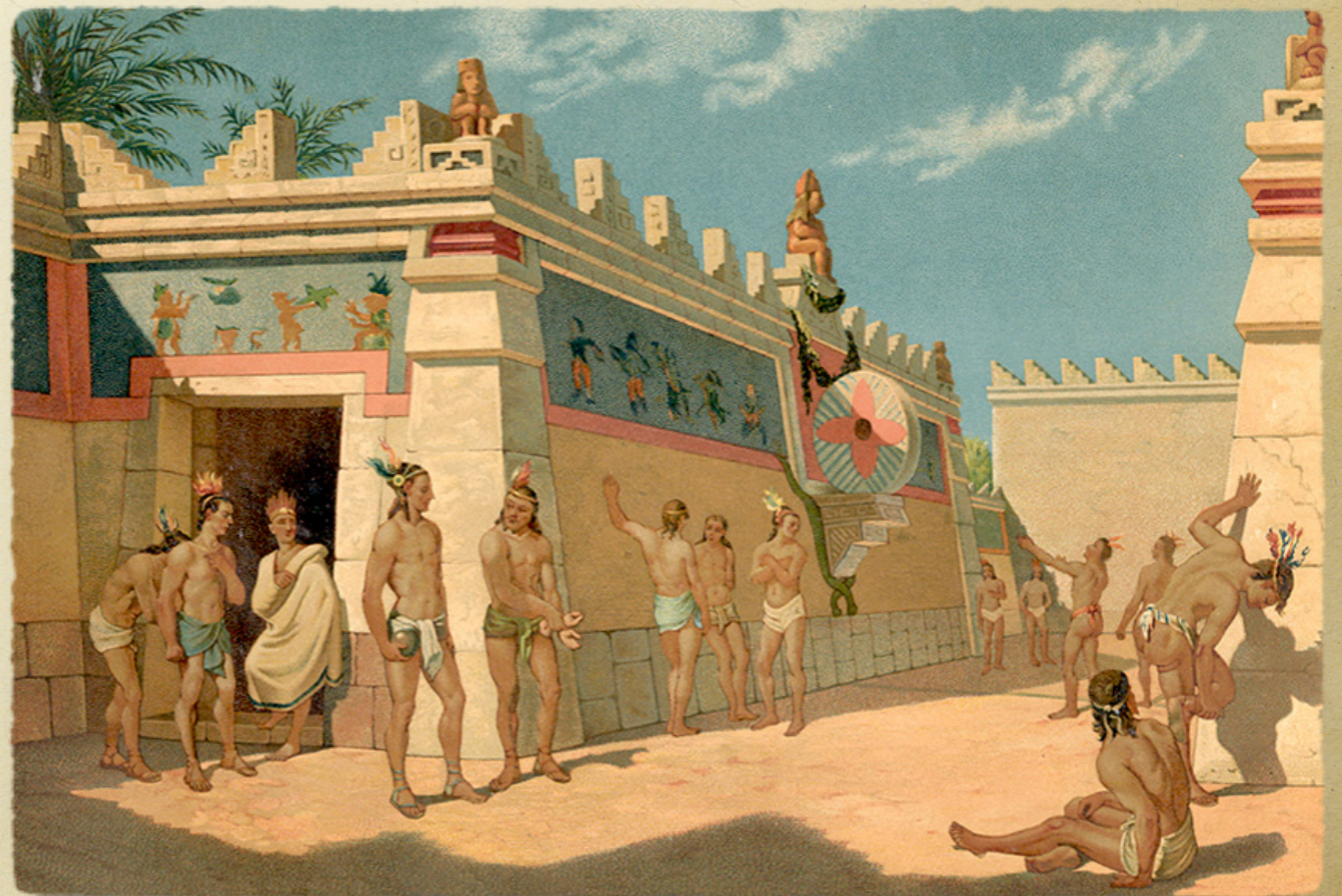
➤ The Mayan ball game was a dangerous game that symbolised the battle between life and death, and can be traced to as far back as 3000 years ago. Not only was it about life and death but the team that lost was sacrificed. The Olmecs in Mexico are the first ones to play this game. It is believed they invented it over 3,000 years ago.





# The Game

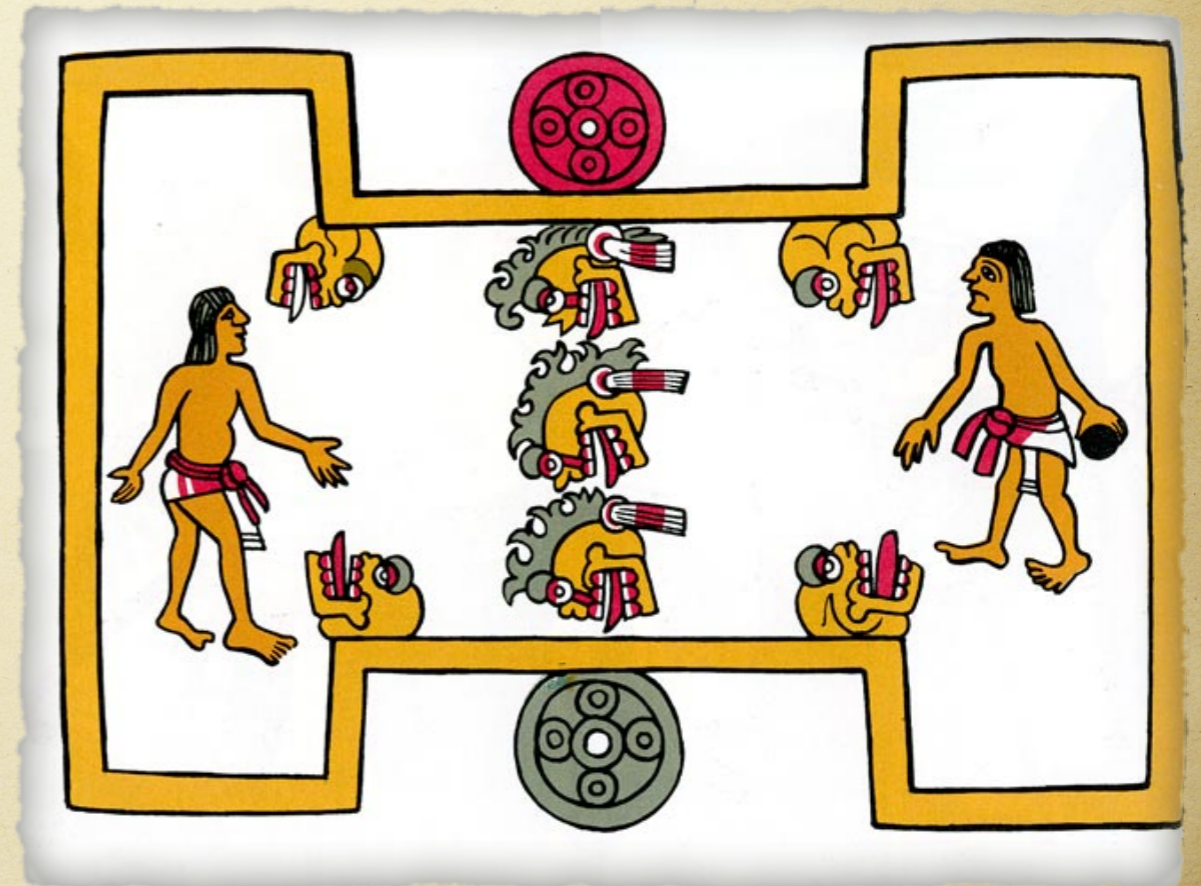
➤ The game was played with a hard rubber ball roughly the size of a grapefruit. The object of the game was to score points by getting the ball through a hole in a stone circle on the wall. You were not allowed to touch the ball with your hands or having the ball hit the ground. The bum, thighs and upper body were used to control the ball. They wore pads around their waist called a 'yoke' to help direct the ball.





# Why is this game important

➤ The Mayan ball game is important to Mexican culture and history because it is believed to be the earliest form of Soccer. In the Olmecs time it was used as a religious ritual and for social activity.





# How it is part of Mexican culture

➤ The Mayan ball game is part of Mexican culture. Just like how we enjoy watching rugby, Mexicans enjoy watching the Mayan ball game. It is a part of tradition in Mexico which has survived 3000 years. The game still has religious significance but not as much as it had.





# Mayan ball game today

➤ The Mayan ball game is still played today just as it was played three thousand years ago, except without the death punishment for losing. It is a dying sport, sports such as soccer and baseball are taking over.

