Scientists Discover Oldest Mayan Mural

Scientists in Central America have discovered an amazing mural. It is the oldest mural created by the Mayan people that scientists have ever seen.

The mural is made with plaster and paint. It includes writing in the Mayan language. The mural was found on a wall of a room attached to a Mayan pyramid. The mural shows the Mayan story of how the world was created. It also tells about Mayan kings and describes the crowning of a Mayan king. Scientists estimate the mural was created in 100 B.C., which was more than 2,000 years ago.

A scientist found the room by accident in 2001. It has taken this long to carefully uncover all the artwork in the room.

This discovery of the mural is special because scientists have learned new things from it. They now know that the Mayans created a language and a form of government hundreds of years earlier than known.

About a mile from the mural, scientists also found the oldest known tomb of a member of Mayan royalty. The tomb dates back to 150 B.C.

The Mayans lived in Central America and southern Mexico for more than 1,500 years. They built cities with huge pyramids, temples, and palaces that visitors still can see today. They studied astronomy and mathematics, too. Many of the Mayans died after European settlers came to Mexico and Central America in the 1500s.

MORE FACTS ABOUT THE MAYANS
- By studying the sun, stars, and planets, the Mayans created calendars that accurately marked the movements of the sun and the passage of time.
- The Mayans also were good farmers. They grew corn and other crops in the jungle.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Imagine that you grew up in a Mayan family that lived in the jungles of Guatemala 2,000 years ago. Write about your daily life, including chores you did and games you played.