

Frederick Catherwood

Using a camera lucida (a tool used to ensure accurate drawing of proportion and perspective), Frederick Catherwood produced meticulous and precise drawings of the ruins of the Maya civilization during his visit to Copan, in modern-day Honduras, in 1839.

His detailed drawings provided Victorian people with an insight into life in the Maya period, which meant they were able to speculate about the Mayan kings, gods, and writing (hieroglyphs).

Although it is clear that these drawings are impressive, some people question their importance because they were drawn by an artist rather than photographed.



Quick Questions



1. What did Frederick Catherwood use a camera lucida for?



2. Find two words meaning **exact** or **clear**.



3. Why did Victorian people have to **speculate** about Maya life?



4. Some people questioned the drawings' importance. Do you think they are important? Why?

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Quick Questions



1. What did Frederick Catherwood use a camera lucida for?

Frederick Catherwood used a camera lucida to ensure that his drawings had accurate proportion and perspective.



2. Find two words meaning **exact** or **clear**.
accurate, meticulous, precise, detailed



3. Why did Victorian people have to **speculate** about Maya life?

There were no definite answers so Victorians had to use the images to make sensible estimates about life in Maya times.



4. Some people questioned the drawings' importance. Do you think they are important? Why?

Answers will vary.