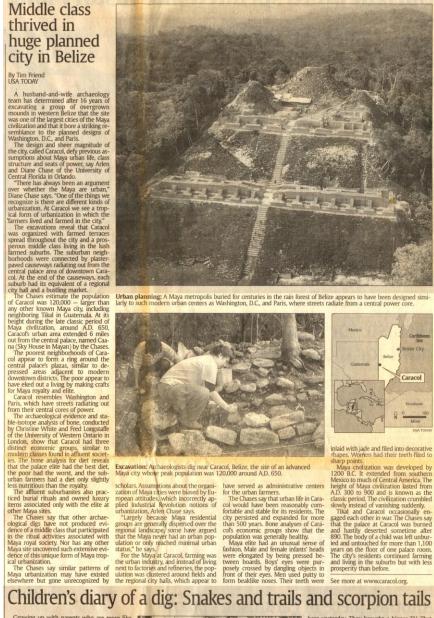
Maya lived as urban farmhands

Middle class thrived in huge planned city in Belize



Urban planning: A Maya metropolis buried for centuries in the rain forest of Belize appears to have been designed similarly to such modern urban centers as Washington, D.C., and Paris, where streets radiate from a central power core.





inial with jade and nieu nito occurative shapes. Women had their teeth filed to sharp points. Maya civilization was developed by 1200 B.C. It extended from southern bright of Maya civilization lasted from AD. 300 to 900 and is known as the classic period. The civilization crumbled slowly instead of vanishing suddenly. Tikal and Caracol occasionally engaged each other in war. The Chases say that the palace at Caracol was burned and hastily deserted sometime after 890. The body of a child was left unburled and living in the suburbs but with less prosperity than before.

Children's diary of a dig: Snakes and trails and scorpion tails



Hanging loose: Adrian, 10, left, Elyse, 5, and Aubrey Chase, 8.