Answer on Question #64056, Physics / Astronomy | Astrophysics

Compare and contrast the celestial interpretations knowledge and astronomical practices of different cultures.

Describe how modern scientist have gathered physical evidence (scrolls ancient tablets pictographs petroglyphs) or studied megalithic and ancient architectural structures to study the ancient astronomical belief system.

Answer:

The collection of materials and their study is a branch of science, which is called Archaeoastronomy.

Archaeoastronomy is the science which studies are the astronomical knowledge of antiquity. It is divided into the actual archaeoastronomy, studying archaeological sites and ancient artifacts to search those astronomical values, and ethnoastronomy that reveals cosmological and cosmogonic representations of ancient folklore and ethnographic data, as well as in the study of ancient drawings (petroglyphs).

Astronomical activity in ancient civilizations - Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, India; in the Indian civilizations of America

Refer to Mesopotamia, Egypt and China (in later documents as we can tell, in part, and an astronomical activity in the ancient Indian tribes of America).

Astronomical activities in all these regions had clearly applied and iconic character. It was the court of public service. In the first two regions and the leading role belonged to the Mayan priests, astronomers, under whom observers and scribes worked; Temples served and observation platforms. In China, these tasks are performed by court officials, astronomers, and in 1 millennium BC. special astronomical institutions have been established. The main objective was to determine the changes in the position of the moving luminaries - the Sun, the Moon, the planets relative to the stars. Particular attention was paid to the most bright planet Venus, the Sumerians and Babylon, as well as the Maya. The Sumerians in the found that the morning and evening star - this one planet.

In Egypt, in addition to the use in the cult of the lunar calendar astronomy was isolated sunny (or rather the Stars and solar) year - the beginning of which was determined by the first heliacal rising of the brightest stars in the northern sky Hundred (its Greek name Sirius ;, as it served as a signal of the approaching flood of the Nile and the beginning of agricultural work Then introduced solar purely civilian. calendar with a whole number of days in the year (365) and the 12th 30-day months, without inserts. Each month was divided into three 10-day's rest (the trail early invention, there is a decimal counting system).