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Prehistoric blue pigment from Chichen Itza, Yucatan, used on temple frescoes and ritual vessels. The fibers are attapulgite, but the fact that no natural occurrence of blue attapulgite is known suggests that this is an artificial pigment. The color is remarkably stable, although the pigment contains no color-producing ions. Experiments are in progress to determine whether it is a clay-organic complex (×33,000). [John C. Hathaway, U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, and Anna O. Shepard, U.S. Geological Survey and Carnegie Institution of Washington]