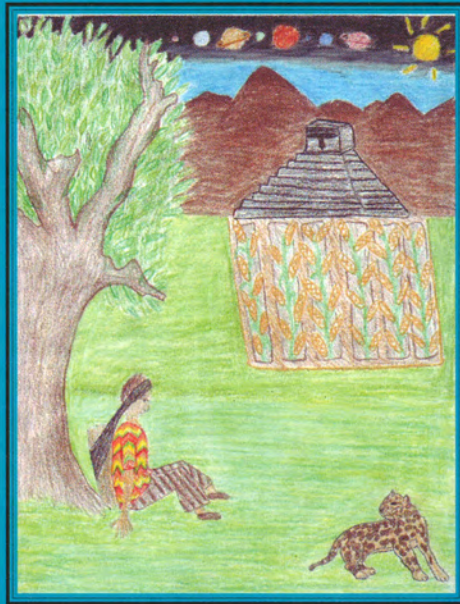


# Meet the Maya

Written and Illustrated  
By Ms. Riley's  
7th Grade Class

# Meet The Maya

An Alphabet Book Based on  
Mayan Culture



Written, Illustrated and Translated By  
Ms. Riley's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Class at  
High Tech Middle School

We would like to thankfully appreciate Mr. Mike, Mr. Gabe and all others who helped this be successful.

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The students of my 7th grade class have spent many weeks learning about culture of the ancient Maya and the current lives of the Maya in Guatemala. They feel passionately about helping others who otherwise might go unnoticed: the Mayan children. It was astonishing that so many children don't get to go to school or can only go for a few years. My class wanted to make a real lasting difference in people's lives, so they have decided to raise money to sponsor students for schooling and all supplies, clothes, and transportation that students need in order to be prepared for the future. They have been doing fund raisers and have written, illustrated, and translated this children's book. This is the second year of this project and after raising over \$1500 last year, we hope to do as well this year and continue to send students to school.

We would greatly appreciate your support by buying this book. All profits go straight into a fund to sponsor Mayan students in the rural Lake Atitlan area of Guatemala. As my students are learning, together we can change the world one life at a time. Please help us to make a school reality for needy children. Thank you!

Heather Riley  
7th Grade Humanities  
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## A is for Ancient Cities

Chichen Itza is a very important city in Mayan culture. It was a main center for religion. There were many important Mayan cities.



Two Ancient Maya cities are called Chichen Itza and Calakmul. Chichen Itza is one of the most important archaeological sites in the Mayan culture. It began to be important when a seafaring people called the Itza arrived in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. They were merchant warriors. Their city was named Chichen Itza, which means "Mouth of the Well of the Itza." It was a very agricultural place. In the Central Phase of the Classic Period, which was from 625 to 880 A.D, it became an important religious center. Arts and sciences became very prominent. In 1194 the Maya broke their alliance with Chichen Itza and although it was never completely abandoned, most of the people left.

~Daniel

*Chichén Itzá es una ciudad muy importante en la cultura Maya. Fue muy bien construido importantes edificios. También fue un centro principal para la religión.*

## A is for Atanzahab

Atanzahab is Mayan for the matchmaker of a village. The matchmaker chooses who gets married.



The reason that the Maya had the matchmaker is because they thought that he was a miracle maker, and the couple would stay with each other forever. With the help of the parents the matchmaker chooses how long the groom works for the bride's family. The average age of marriage in Mayan culture is 14 for girls and 20 for boys. First they had to agree on how much clothing and crops would be given to the bride's family. Then they get married.

~Miguel

*Atanzahab es un casamentero, y convenía con la gente para que se puedan casar.*

## B is for Buses and Transportation

People ride buses to get around the city. The colors on them are very bright, and these buses are also known as chicken buses.



I am a peasant from Guatemala, and I use chicken buses as transportation to get around the cities. Sometimes six or more people would try to fit in one row of seats. The reason why these buses are called chicken buses is because many bring chickens along with them. Something that is fun about these buses are the bright colors on them like blue, orange, green, and red, which is sure to make you blind!

~Mariel

*En Guatemala los buses de muchos colores fosfersenteque asta te dellaria siego, bisco y confundido como loco de tantos colores. Casi mucha llente sube sus pollos con ellos que asta me imallinoque guele much a pollo.*

## B is for Back-strap Weaving

Long ago, there was a Goddess Ixchel who was said to have invented back-strap weaving. Weaving is an activity the women do to make their clothes. Even little kids at your age might be making clothes.



Imagine waking up before dawn to take care of the children, animals, start the fire, grind the corn, make tortillas, rice, and beans for your family. In the afternoon then you unroll and connect your loom, to a tree or post. Long ago, the Goddess Ixchel was said to have invented back-strap weaving. She was known as the goddess of medicine, childbirth, and the moon. Back-strap weaving is a symbol of life for Maya women, the loom is strapped around her waist and the other end to a tree or a post. The weaver is part of the loom. She is connected to her nature and becomes one with her environment. To weave a traditional huipil (blouse), may involve two or three months of a daily routine.

~Adriana

*Hace mucho tiempo avia una dios que se llamaba Ixchal, ella invento el tejer de la detras-correa. El tejer de la detras-correa era una actividad que las mujeres usan pare hacer su ropa.*

## C for Coming of Age Ceremony

One of the ceremonies that the Maya celebrated was the coming of age ceremony. This was one of the most important ceremonies. It's going from a kid to an adult.



One of the ceremonies that the Maya celebrated was the coming of age ceremony. Girls went through this ceremony at the age of 14 and boys went through this ceremony at the age of 12. This long ceremony involved confessions, cleaning with water and reciting the rules of behavior. Finally the priest cut a white bead from the boys hair and removed a string of shells from around the girls waist. Boys and girls had worn these symbols of innocence since they were quite young.

~Luis

*Una ceremonia que los Maya celebraban era el crecimiento. Las niñas celebraban esto a la edad de 14 años, y los niños celebraban esto a la edad de 12 años.*

## C is for Coffee

There is this one place that is far away from here, between Mexico and South America. It is called Guatemala. There is a lot of coffee there.



Coffee tastes good, it adds excitement to your parents' daily routine. Signs of The Coffee Crisis can be seen everywhere in the Guatemalan highlands, where some of the finest coffee is made. It is said that the normal coffee farmer revives about 1% of the profit from a cup of coffee bought in a café. That may seem like something good but just imagine the person who grows, sells, and makes his own coffee. For every 1,000 cups of coffee he only gets money for 10! In ancient times they used coffee for money. It was brought to Guatemala by Rufino Barrios from Spain.

~Jason

*Café es una bebida que es la bebida segundo mas tipica para la mañana.*

## D is for Droughts and Fall of the Maya

The Maya died out from a lot of different reasons. The main reason was because of a drought. A drought is when there is no rain or water.



The fall of the Maya was a mystery so nobody actually knows how they died out. Some people think that the Aztecs invaded the Maya. Other people thought it was because of natural disasters, and the last and most important reason was because of a drought. Before the drought, King Kanmaxx predicted that there was going to be a drought and the crops would not grow. Nobody believed him and sooner or later the drought came. The Mayas weren't able to grow crops so that meant that they couldn't eat, and there was no water which caused them to starve and dehydrate.

~ David

*Los Mayas murieron por que avia una sequia.*

## D is for Duties of Men and Women

The men and women had very different tasks to perform, but were both equal. If they had kids, the sons would go with the dad, and the daughters would go with the mom and teach them what they do in their daily routine.



Our life is pretty simple. Wake up, get ready for school (or work), go to school, and then come home from school. Compared to our lives, the Maya life wasn't so simple. The men and women had different tasks to perform but were both equal. The women would usually stay home with their daughters, while the men would go out and farm and hunt with their sons. In the morning, the women would serve breakfast before the men left for the fields to harvest maize with their sons. On the way home they would usually try to hunt birds. When they got home they would take baths. After they got done bathing, the women would serve the men their dinner and eat later. After eating they would work on making art out of wood or jade. Meanwhile, the women would weave and spin cotton. When morning came, they would repeat this routine over and over again.

~Arianna

*Los hombres y mujeres tenian trabajos diferentes, pero eran justos.*

## E is for Economy and Cocoa Beans

Imagine giving the person at the cash register cocoa beans, plants, or animals, rather than money. Well, for the ancient Maya, cocoa beans were very important to the Maya and was their main form of money.



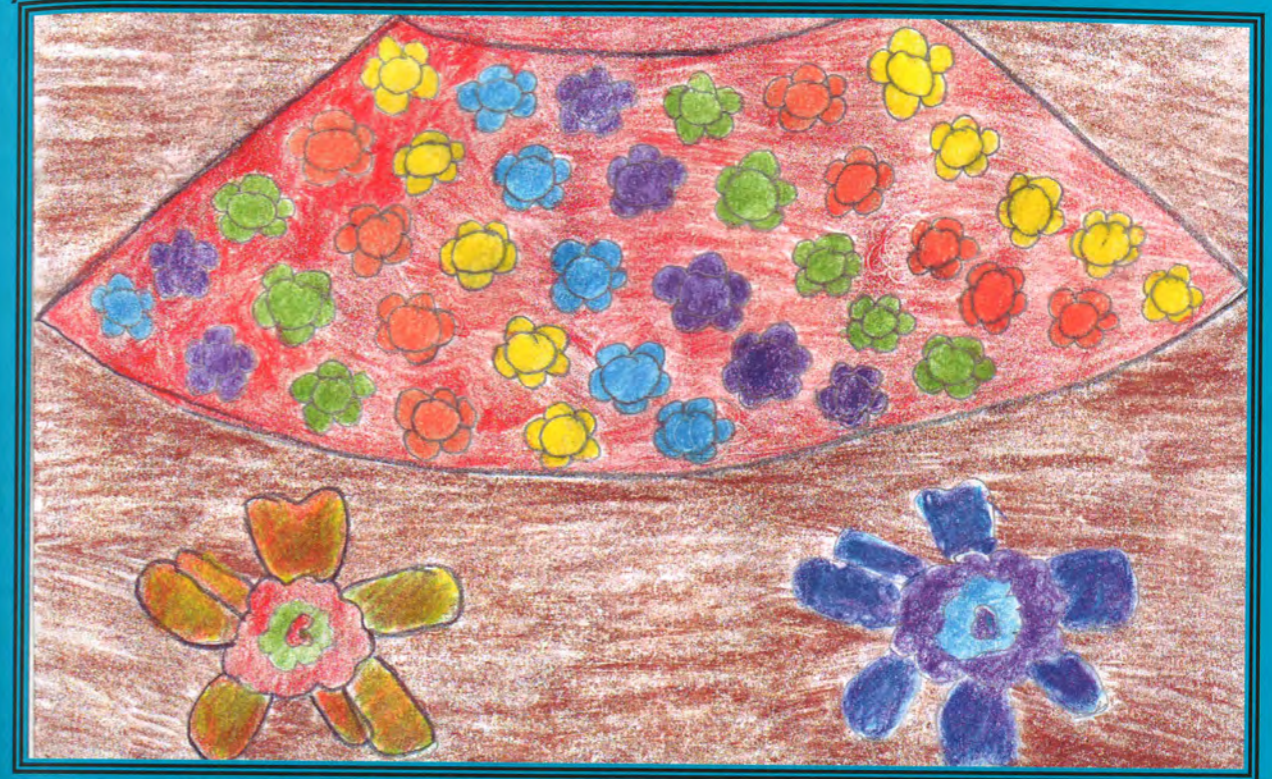
The ancient Maya would trade different things like cocoa beans, crops, and animals. Cocoa beans were also used to make a drink similar to hot chocolate, except they didn't drink it hot, it was cold. Cocoa beans were very important to the Maya and very valuable. The livestock they traded was mainly chickens. Their "trade" was basically buying things. They would say, "I'll give you ten cocoa beans for two chickens". Trading, kept the economy going. If people didn't trade their cocoa beans and chickens, business would go down and the Mayas wouldn't be able to get supplies to live. Trade was a very big part of their economy. They also would have markets, and at the markets they sold and traded things. People from the towns would go to the market and buy or trade for whatever they needed.

~Adam

*Los Mayas usaron grano de cacao y animales como una forma de dinero.*

## E is for Embroidery

Embroidery is the act of designing fabric using needlework. The Maya embroidered animals, birds, flowers, and other shapes or symbols.



Imagine walking down the street in Guatemala and seeing the beautiful colors, patterns, and pictures that filled the Maya clothing. Imagine the delicate hand that your mothers and sisters needed to create the animals like quetzals, birds, and deer on your clothes. You would also wear shirts with geometric shapes and symbols. The art they created was symbolic for example the sun represented life and light. Sometimes your clothes told stories about your daily life and Mother Nature.

~Mireya

*El cosimiento es desinero cone tela de todo typos ellos hasian esto cosiendo.*



## F is for Family

The Mayan Families were busy. They could be found weaving, farming, hunting or cooking.



Imagine going back in time and seeing the Ancient Mayan Civilization. You can see a peasant family. Each of them doing their own job. The women weaving traditional clothings like a **huipil**, a traditional blouse for the women, or sometimes a **tzute**, a shawl used in the mountains. You admire the beautiful designs made to represent the universe. Something catches your eye. Not too far away there are some men and their sons farming the land. They are hunting for the family. During war these men are sent to fight. The wives cook the men's meat and crops. They make delicious tortillas or tamales. On special occasions they drink hot chocolate made from the fresh cacao bean.

~Jade

*Las familias des los mayas estaban muy ocupados. Los mayas en su rancho asian muchas cosas y cosinavan mucho.*

## F is for Farming and Food

Mayas grow many different things. They grow things like coffee, sugar, bananas and flowers.



Can you imagine having to grow almost everything you eat? That's what the Mayas had to do. If you visited a present-day Mayan plantation, you would see the farmers growing sugar, coffee, bananas and flowers; but if you visited an ancient Maya hacienda, you would see them growing squash, maize, papaya, pineapples, corn, beans, chili peppers and more. Imagine traveling back in time and visiting a plantation where a worker explains the different ways to grow crops in varying landscapes. You learn that, to grow crops in swamp lowlands, they used "raised earth platforms" which were surrounded by canals that caught excess water. When growing things in mountain highlands, Mayas made earth steps, also known as terraces. These created more flat land, especially on hills and mountains, for easy planting. The Slash and Burn technique was applied when growing crops in forest lowlands. These strategies help conserve space while growing larger amounts of food.

~Emily

*Los Mayas cultivaron muchas cosas como café, azúcar, plátanos y flores.*

## G is for Guatemala

G is for Guatemala which has a population of 13.1 million. Over half of the population are Maya. Guatemala has many different landscapes like: volcanoes, deserts, swamps, beaches, and rain forests.



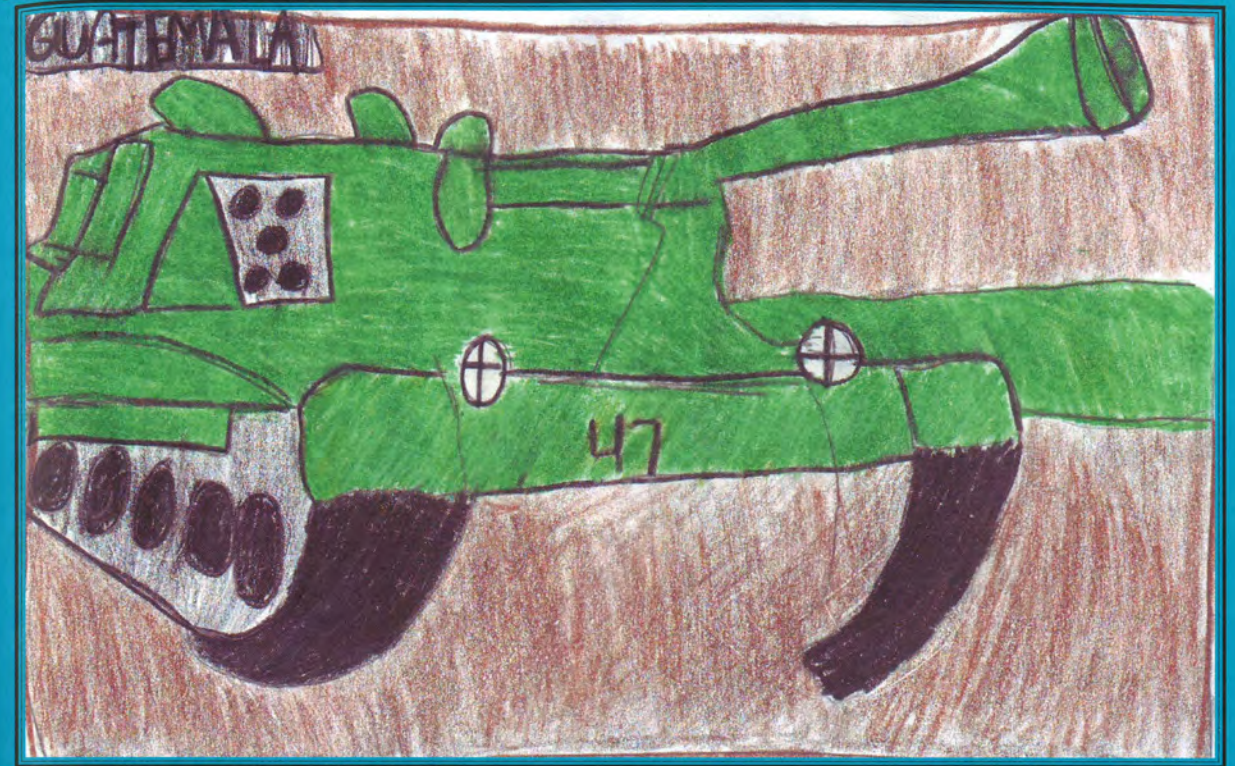
Guatemala is surrounded by 4 other countries: Mexico, Belize, El Salvador, and Honduras. Guatemala has many different landscapes like: beaches, volcanoes, rain forests, swamps, and deserts. Some of the main languages they speak in Guatemala are Spanish, different Mayan dialects, and some English. Some of the exports they send are coffee beans, bananas, and mangoes. There are many cities in Guatemala and its capital is Guatemala City. The population of Guatemala is 13.1 million and the area of Guatemala is 108,890 square kilometers.

~Jacob

*Guatemala tiene una población de 13.1 millones de personas. Guatemala tiene muchos paisajes como volcánes, desiertos, lagunas, selvas, y playas.*

## G is for Guerrillas

Guerrillas are a group of people who live in the jungles of Guatemala.



Guerrillas are like rebels undercover. A rebel is a person who fights their own country. In 1960 the Guerrillas wanted to overthrow the government in Guatemala. The Guerrillas are not an organized group of people. Guerrillas live in the jungle. They also live in countries near Guatemala. Even though the army almost eliminated all of the Guerrillas, some still exist in Guatemala. Sometimes guerrillas are criminals with a criminal life style and threaten tourist to give them money. Some Guerrillas are good and they fight for their own country and they also support their country.

~Alexis

*Guerillas son un grupo de diferente fuente. Son Mexicanos, Ladinos, y aye mas. Guerillas viven en Guatemala, o in pais's circas de Guatemala.*

## H is for Huipil

A huipil is a beautiful dress with bright colors, and fancy patterns. Almost every village makes them, and they are all different.



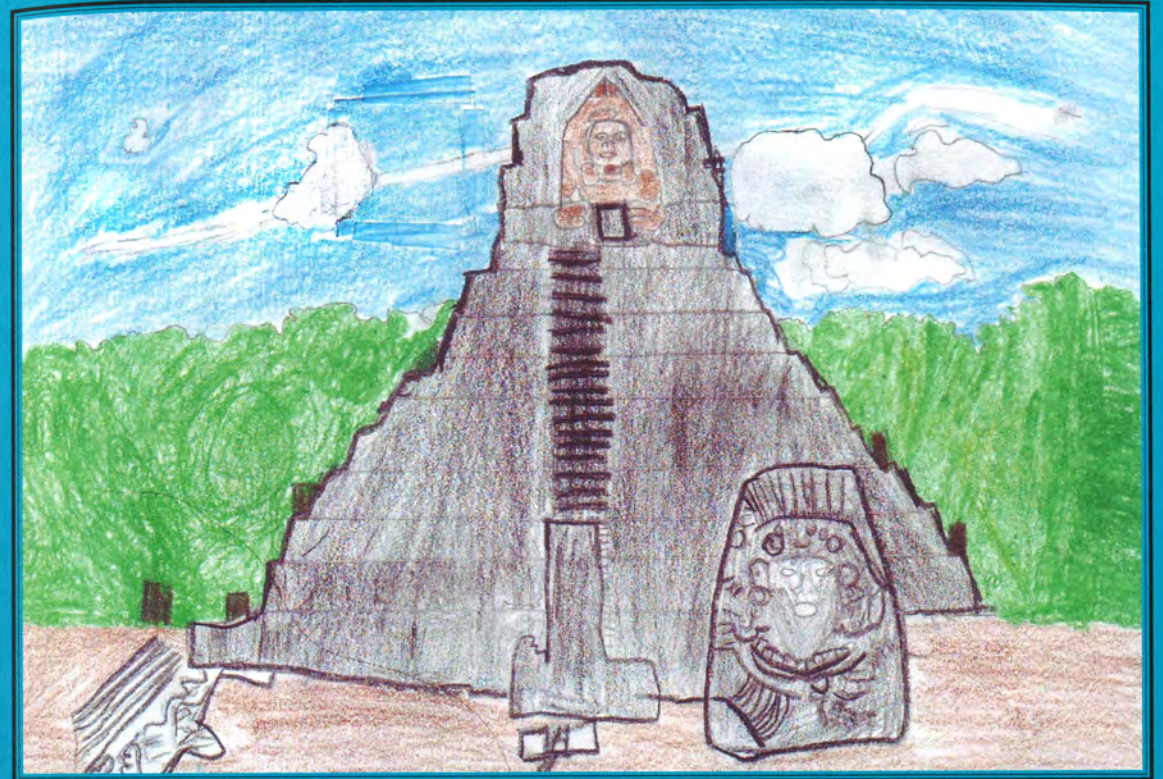
A huipil is a woman's traditional blouse or dress. Every village has its own huipil, individually woven by a village native. You can tell a woman's social class, where she is from, religious background and beliefs, wealth, authority, and personality by her huipil. This is because every village has its own style, shape, design, and color huipil. Usually women have two huipils for everyday use, plus one for special occasions such as marriages, fiestas, and religious ceremonies. A huipil is one of the most beautiful dresses or blouses, because of all of the bright colors, and intricate patterns. Because of this, huipils are treasured and very expensive, which makes them a big part of Mayan life.

~Matt

*Los huipiles son vestidos bonitos con colores brillantes y estampas interesantes. Casi todos los pueblos los hacen, y todos son muy diferentes.*

## H is for Halach Uinic

That means true man and that person was the ruler of the town. The ruler was like the president. They got to choose what the whole town did; usually it was a man.



You're watching your dad on the top of a temple sacrificing a cow. Your dad looks down at you and he says stay back. He throws off the cow, you hear a splattering noise, and it barely misses you. You back up and turn around because you can't bare the horror. The Halach Uinic was the ruler. They were on the top of the social pyramid. The ruler made all the decisions, with help from their advisors, such as when to go to war and who to go to war with. The ruler was considered a god-king or a descendant from God. Usually at ceremonies the ruler would wear a headdress as tall as an average person. When the ruler passed away or resigned the successor would be their son or a really close male relative. Also it is said that the women gave good influence to the men.

~Gautam

*El gobierno tomaba todas las decisiones para el pueblo y el conserjo les ayudaba.*

## I is for Inscriptions and Hieroglyphics

Inscriptions called hieroglyphics is how the Maya wrote. We use letters and the Maya used hieroglyphics. Hieroglyphics usually look like pictures.



When writing hieroglyphics Mayas use one syllable, which is a picture, then another syllable and another picture so when you put the syllables together you get a word. Hieroglyphics were discovered around 200 B.C to 300 B.C. Hieroglyphics are carved into stone. They usually used hieroglyphics for a story or to praise kings or gods. Carvings took place when something important happened or when a king or priest died. The hieroglyphics were carved into steles, which were slabs of rock.

~Marea

*Los jeroglíficos es el estilo de escritura del Maya. En jeroglíficos ellos usan ilustraciones para mostrar la palabra.*

## I is for Instruments

Music took a big part in the Maya's lives. They had many instruments like drums, maracas and a special instrument called the Marimba.



Imagine a life without music. A boring and lifeless version of what we have today. Luckily, the Mayan people were intelligent figures who didn't live that way. Mayan music was not only used for cultural things but also in the daily life of both rich and poor. Their instruments consisted of drums, maracas, flutes, and an instrument that they invented called the marimba. Flutes were more popular on serious occasions like funerals. There would normally be a flutist and a drummer that would follow the casket and when it was put down, they laid their instruments down with it in a sign of respect and remembrance. One of the more popular instruments was the Marimba, very similar to the xylophone, and had fire-formed wood as the keys. They would shape the keys different sizes for different sounds, shaping them by firing them and scraping off the charred wood. Mayan drums were made pretty much the same way as those from cultures all over the world. They would decorate the drums by carving different patterns to represent important events or cultural things. Music was and is an important thing in Mayan culture and they have done a great job of preserving that culture.

~Hunter

*Musica era muy importante para la cultura de los Maya y tienen muchos diferentes instrumentos para el evento.*

## J is for Jaguars

Jaguars are big cats that are head of the jungle. The jaguars were very important of the Maya culture.



The Maya believed that the jaguars helped the Creator in forming the world. Maya Rulers are often shown lounging on jaguar thrones watching people dance below them. Those with high authority wore jaguar skins to show their power. The jaguar was the most feared and respected beast because of their hunting ability. The jaguar and the Maya ruled together over the tropical rain forest.

~Dominick

*Los jaguares son muy importantes en la cultura maya. Son el animal mas respetado en el jungla.*

## J is for Jade

Jade is a precious stone that was worth a lot of money back in the ancient Maya times. Mayan civilizations who had Jade were very lucky and usually wealthy. People who might have Jade would be Rulers and Nobles.



Jade is an ornamental stone. When you say Jade you are talking about one of two different metamorphic stones. These stones are made up of different minerals called Nephrite Jade and Jadeite. Nephrite and Jadeite are both very tough stones but Nephrite is even tougher, so Nephrite was harder to shape than Jade. The Maya used jade for ornaments. Jade was also a very valuable stone. Jade is still a very valuable stone that is worth a lot of money. To the Mayas, Jade was even more valuable than gold.

~Eddie

*El jade es una piedra que fue usada para muchas cosas y también era utilizada como dinero.*

## K is for Kings

During the Mayan times they had many kings. The kings built big buildings called temples to show their power.



In the ancient Mayan times, you couldn't get elected to be a king like we elect our president now. Back then you were born into royalty, you couldn't be king unless you were in the royal family. The kings showed their power through their temples. The temples were very useful and respected by the Mayas. They were used for sacrifices, religious ceremonies, ball games and many more things. The most important king of the Mayas was K'inich Janaab' Pakal. He ruled from 12-68 years of age. He protected Palenque from many attacks. Sadly, he spent his years ruling, attacking, and building damaged temples.

~Daniel

*En los tiempos de los Mayas, tenían muchos reyes. Los reyes construyeron templos para enseñar sus capacidades.*

## K is for Kinich Ahau

Kinich Ahau is one of the Mayan Sun Gods. He is the god that takes care of the city of Itzamal.



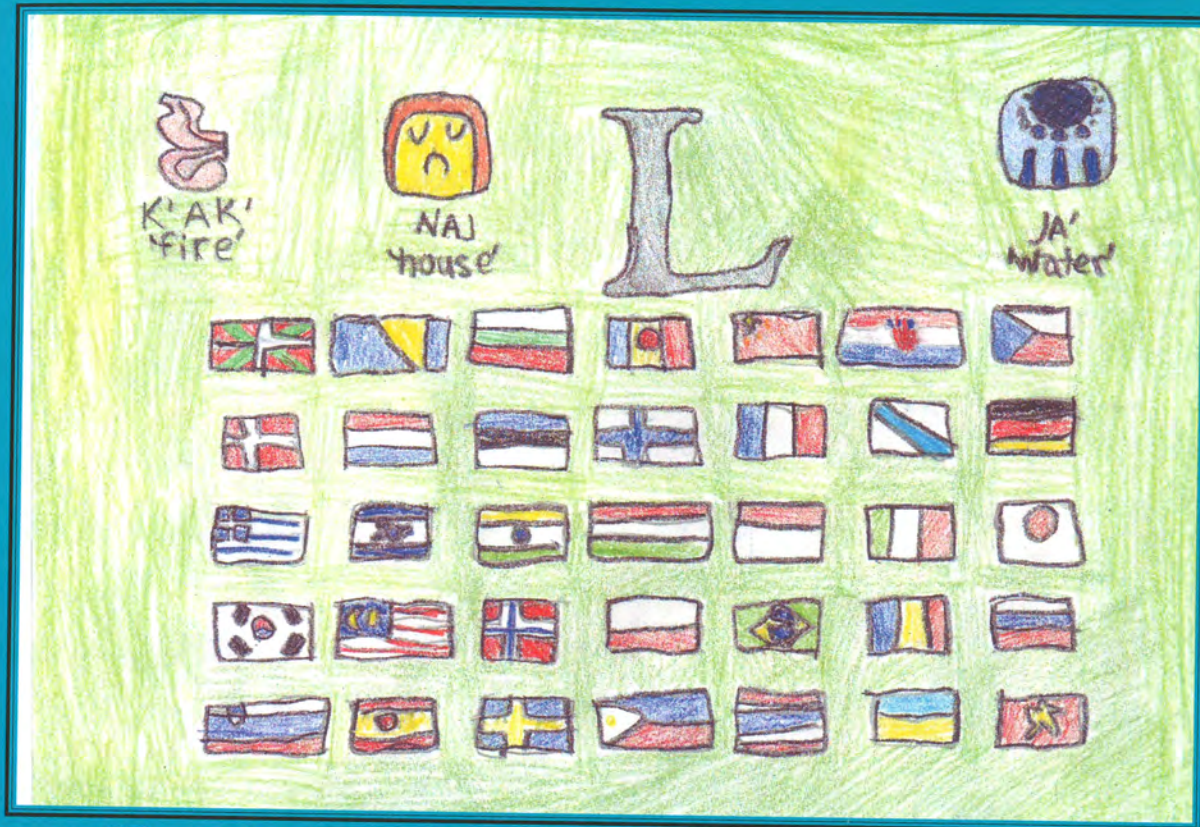
Kinich Ahau is one of the Mayan Sun Gods. He is usually pictured as a Phoenix, or fire bird. A Phoenix is a large red or orange bird made of fire. Kinich Ahau is also sometimes shown as part-jaguar in pictures. Kinich Ahau is the patron god of the city of Itzamal. A patron god means that god watches over a certain person, place, or thing. He supposedly visited the city at noon every day and took the offerings the villagers had prepared. He came down as a macaw, a type of parrot. Kinich Ahau is also known by Ah Xoc Kin, a name that has to do with poetry and music.

~Eduardo

*Kinich Ahau es uno de los Dioses del Sol Maya.*

## L is for Languages

There are 27 different Mayan languages. The main language they speak is Spanish.



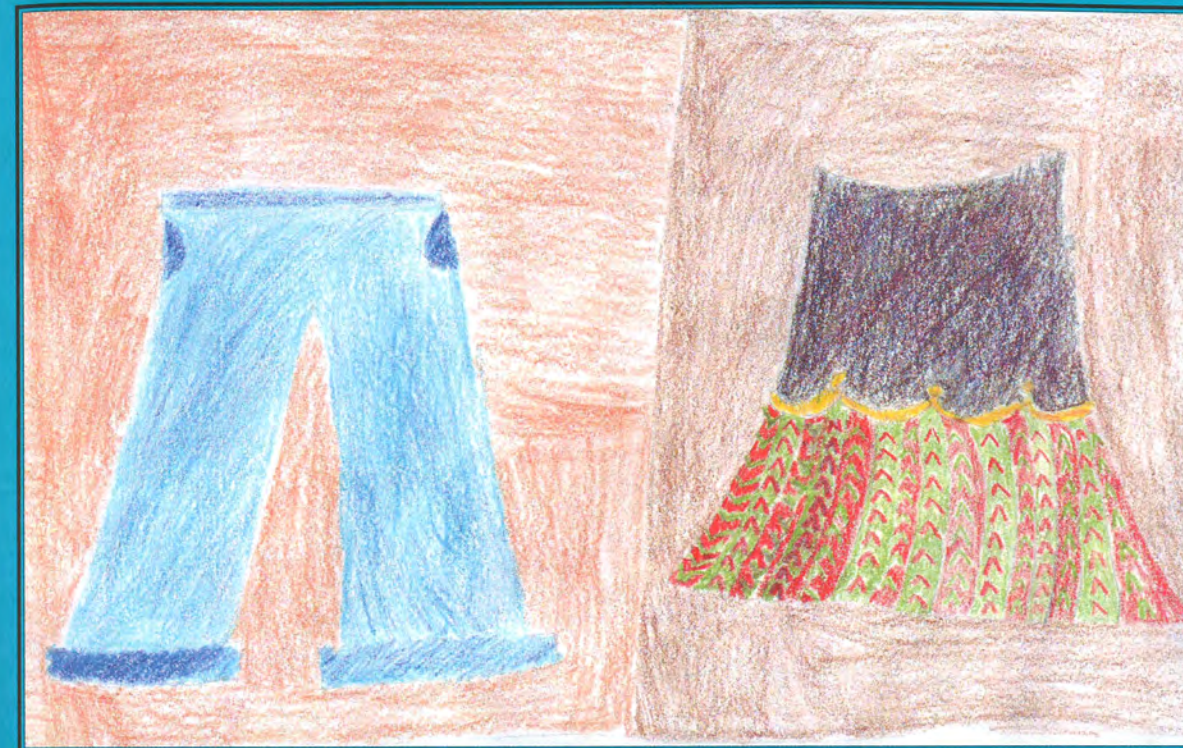
There are 27 amazing Mayan languages. The main languages are Kekchi, Quiche, Chorti and Spanish. Spanish wasn't a language they created, but a lot of Mayas spoke it to get around easily. In Spanish instead of saying "hi" you would say "hola". In Chorti you would say "haha" which means "rainy". Modern Mayan languages come from Proto-Maya. This was the supposed to be the one of the first Mayan languages. It was thought to be spoken 5000 years ago. If you were to write in Maya it would be called hieroglyphics.

~Martynas

*Hay veintisiete idiomas Mayas. Uno de los idiomas que ellos hablaban es el español.*

## L is for Ladino

Ladinos are people who are half Spanish and half Mayan. They live in most parts of Guatemala.



A Ladino is a person who is half Mayan and half Spanish. They are one of the two primary social groups. People can tell if you are Ladino because you don't speak a Mayan language. If they speak only Mayan, they are full Maya. There was trouble between the Maya and the Ladinos. To the Maya, the Ladinos are very rich. They wear regular jeans like we wear. Mayas usually wear woven clothing they made that they sometimes have to clean them in dirty water. There is tension between the Maya and Ladinos. Its just because Ladinos are richer then the Maya. Ladinos live and dress like most city dwellers. Ladino's primary language is Spanish.

~RJ

*Ladinos son jente que son parte Mayan y parte Espanol.*

## M is for Myths

The Mayas had a myth that the Gods made humans out of clay, then wood, then corn. We are now known as the corn people.



The Maya had many myths. One of these myths is how humans were first created. Imagine a world with nothing, no trees or animals or plants, and then the gods, Tepeu, the winged spirit, and Gucumatz, the maker, made everything; except humans. The gods had nothing to worship them so they tried to make humans. According to legend the first humans were made of clay, but they crumbled and turned to dust. The second humans were made of wood, but they could not feel emotion or worship. They were as dull as, well a piece of wood. The gods then made humans of corn and they saw that they were good. They multiplied and spread across the earth but they were too smart. The corn people were smarter than the gods so the gods took away some of their intelligence. We are now those corn people.

~Andy

*Los Mayas pensaban que la gente eran echo de clay, madera y después maiz. Ahora piensan que somos hechos de maiz.*

## M is for Maize

Maize is corn. Corn was one of the main crops of the Mayan culture. It was used for eating, trading, ceremonies and had many other uses.



The Maya worshiped their god of corn named Yum Kax. The Maya thought, wrote about, and drew Yum Kax as having a specific appearance, with a headdress of maize and a curved streak on his cheek. The farmers believed that if they would pray to Yum Kax, their crops would grow well and the farmers would have lots of corn. The corn that they grew was ground up to feed their family or traded for other crops and for cocoa beans(which is what they used for money). Maize was also used in burial ceremonies for the nobles. Priests would place ground maize into the mouth of the noblemen as food for their journey to the heavens.

~Killian

*Yum Kax es el dios de maiz y es importante para los Maya.*



## N is for Nobles and Social Structure

There are Seven Social groups which were rulers, the nobles, the priests, the merchants, the artisans, the peasants, and the slaves.



The rulers ruled the lands and cities. They were also considered descendants of gods to the Mayans. Then there was the nobles. The nobles were one of the only ones who could read. The nobles gathered taxes and also lead peasant armies during the times of war. Priests could also read. They led rituals, offered sacrifices, and determined the best days of battle. They were also the "doctors" of the Maya. The merchants were accomplished traders. They imported valuable products like Obsidian and Jade. The artisans were the artists of the Maya. They painted and sculpted. The male peasants grew crops in the field and the female peasants stayed home to weave and cook. Lastly there were the slaves. The slaves performed manual labor. The way to become a slave was to be sold as a child, be a war prisoner, and sometimes people were made slaves as punishment.

~Robert

*Habia siete diferentes grupos sociales. Eran gobernantes, nobles, padres, comerciantes, artesanos, campesinos, y esclavos.*

## N is for Nixtamal

Nixtamal was one of the things that the Maya created. It was corn and lime mixed together. The Mayan moms would have yummy tortillas ready, for their hard working children when they came home. Tortillas were eaten with every meal.



Imagine being in ancient times. You come home from a hard, hot day at work and you're starving. Lucky for you, your mom has some fresh cooked tortillas made of nixtamal. Nixtamal is a mixture of ground corn and lime used to make tortillas. It was so important for the Mayan, that it could almost be called sacred. Since corn and lime were two of the few things they had or ate, they mixed them together and called it nixtamal. They would get little balls of nixtamal, flatten and then pat them with their hands. Lastly they would throw them in a comal, a stove especially made for cooking tortillas. They will eat tortillas with every meal.

~Jennifer

*Nixtamal es una de las cosas que los Mayas inventaron. Nixtamal es solo limon y elote mezclado. Las mamas de los Mayas tenian unas deliciosas y frescas tortillas listas para ellos.*

## O is for Obsidian

Obsidian is a pretty rock that Mayan people use for trading and jewelry, and even to kill animals with obsidian spears. Obsidian is made when lava from a volcano cools on top of the ground, making it an igneous rock.



Obsidian is an igneous rock that is formed when lava cools above ground. Obsidian is really glass not a mixture of minerals. It comes in all shapes and sizes and many colors. Obsidian is sharp, and beautiful. It was used by the Mayan people for things such as hunting animals to kill an animal. It was also used to make jewelry for the traveling merchants and also jewelry for the tourists who want a special souvenir. Wouldn't you want to have obsidian? Obsidian is in both highlands and lowlands of Guatemala. If you found obsidian it would be a good memory, nice souvenir and beautiful gem that you can show to friends and family.

~ Claudia

*Obsidiana una roca preciosa, y echa cuando los volcanes se enfrían arriba de la tierra. Los Maya usan la roca para intercambiar, usarla como joyería, y para matar a un animal para asear comida.*

## O is for Offerings

People give food to the gods, when they are having bad luck or when they did something bad. They would offer to gods for forgiveness.



Imagine you found a secret time machine, and it took you to the times of the ancient Mayan civilization. Something caught your attention and you saw people bowing and laying food on an altar. You find out they were just offering food. If you were a Maya, what would you offer to the gods? Your prized possessions, like your cell phone or iPod? Well, they didn't have those things back then so they would sacrifice animals or even humans, but not all the offering had to do with blood. They would also offer food, jade, maize (corn), and livestock. Today one of the main things to offer is food. They would offer to gods for rain or when they did something bad and wanted to ask for forgiveness. Sometimes they just wanted to ask for good fortune. Next time you are having bad luck or need rain, offer something to the gods.

~Laura

*Los Maya ofresian a otras familias cuando tenian problemas. Ellos ofresian comida y maeriales.*

## P is for Periods

The three periods are Pre-Classic, Classic and Post-Classic.



The great Maya Period of civilization lasted 3,500 years from almost 2000 B.C.E. to 1500 C.E. Maya civilization began to rise in Eastern and Southern Mexico around 2000 B.C.E. The main Maya civilization periods are **Pre-Classic, Classic, & Post-Classic**. During the time of 2000 B.C.E to 300 C.E. the Maya farmed on lands and lived in simple houses. Each state had farming communities and one or more cities. Mexico had turned from hunting to gathering to farming as their main point of food. The Maya right now are chosen to be the most brilliant during the Classic Period. The culture's starting point has been tracked back to 1500 BC and they have found out a lot of cool things. Around 900 C.E the civilization collapsed. No one knows why it even happened but there are many possibilities like that it was because the weather, population, from the farming system, and war.

~Sydnee

*Los tres periodos de los Mayas son pre-classico, classico y poste classico.*

## P is for Pok-a-tok

Pok-a-tok is a Mayan ball game. Nobles would try to hit rubber balls into stone rings.



Pok-a-Tok is a Mayan ball game. Nobles are supposed to hit rubber balls through a stone ring, which was 27 feet off the ground. (Nobles are people that are right in the middle of the social class but they are treated with lots of respect). During this game, Nobles would have to use their wrist, elbows, and hips. Many people would bet on the game. They would bet slaves, land, and homes. This game would be very exciting because they would be hitting the ball up and into the rings and the Nobles would play for their lives. The winners of the game would get a feast; sometimes the losers of the game would be sacrificed. It was a very important part of their religion, because it is the only game they have.

~Jack

*Pok-a-Tok es un juego de pelota de los Maya.*

## P is for Popol Vuh

Popol Vuh is the story of Mayan creation and a book of their myths.



The Popol Vuh is the story of Maya creation. This story tells how the Maya were "created" from maize, which is known as corn. Maize was important to the Maya culture because it allowed them to stay in one place instead of wondering around and build a civilization. The Popol Vuh was written in symbols called hieroglyphics. When the Spanish invaded, most Maya books were burned, but the stories were passed on to story tellers. The Popol Vuh was re-written into the Mayan language, Quiche. It was lost for many years but it was re-discovered later on. Now it's written in several languages, including English and Spanish.

~Connor

*El Popol Vuh es la historia de creación de los Mayas.*

## P is for Priests

The priest would talk to gods and give them food and water. They did this to keep gods happy.



The Maya had a special religious leader called the Priest. The reason they are so special is because they were the only group besides nobles who could read and write. The priests were also thought to be the healers, and they would tell anyone their illness. The priests were not just people who would heal, but they also attended ceremonies where they would pray to the gods. After praying, the gods would bless the people and the area by providing water so their crops could grow and people would not be hungry. The gods would also grant them sun to help crops and fruit grow. The priest also attended sacrifices, which might make you ask, "why would they have sacrifices?" They had sacrifices so the gods would be happy, and give them food and other things. During these sacrifices, the priests were the ones who were performing the ceremonies.

~Dante

*Los padres son personas que pueden predecir el futuro. Ellos eran importante porque ellos eran la única persona que pueden leer. Ellos también hacían ceremonias.*

## Q is for Quiche

The Quiche are one of the main groups of Maya that live in the city of Chichicastenango. There they have a famous market every week.



The Quiche people are one of the many colorful Mayan ethnic groups that live in the beautiful highlands of Guatemala. The Popul Vul, the Mayan creation story, was originally written down by the Quiche. If you visit Guatemala you might want to go see their colorful and crowded markets. There you could see stalls of cloths, flowers, fruits, blankets, jugs, clothing, and anything else you could ever possibly need. One of the most famous markets is in the little town of Chichicastenango. It attracts lots of Maya and tourists from all over the world. Come walk between the stallc and be amazed by the detailed and beautiful cloths made by the Quiche:

~Heather

*Los Quiche son un grupo de Maya y ellos viven en una ciudad que se llama Chichicastenango. En Chichicastenango tienen un mercado famoso cada semana.*

## Q is for Quetzals

Did you know that male quetzals normally have brighter colored feathers? They also show off their long beautiful tales to impress females.



Imagine, waking up in a tropical forest in Guatemala. You stop to stare at your extraordinarily long and beautiful tale. Tourist stop to stare at your red and green vibrant colored feathers. You are a quetzal. The quetzal is the Guatemalan national bird. It is about 14 inches long and has green and red feathers. Males are 25 inches long because of their long tail. The tail is normally longer then the rest of the body. They have green and red feathers and normally males have more striking colors. They have very strong beaks to dig holes in the trunks of trees for their nest. One of the sad things is that they are a threatened species. They are sometimes killed and trapped for captivity. Also the forest that they live in is slowly being destroyed.

~Morgan

*Los quetzales viven en el bosque de Guatemala, y tienen colas largas.*

## R is for Rigaburta Menchu

Rigoberta Menchù lived through a 36 year long war and now she is involved with politics. Not too long ago she ran for president of Guatemala but sadly didn't get too far which means she didn't have the chance to win.



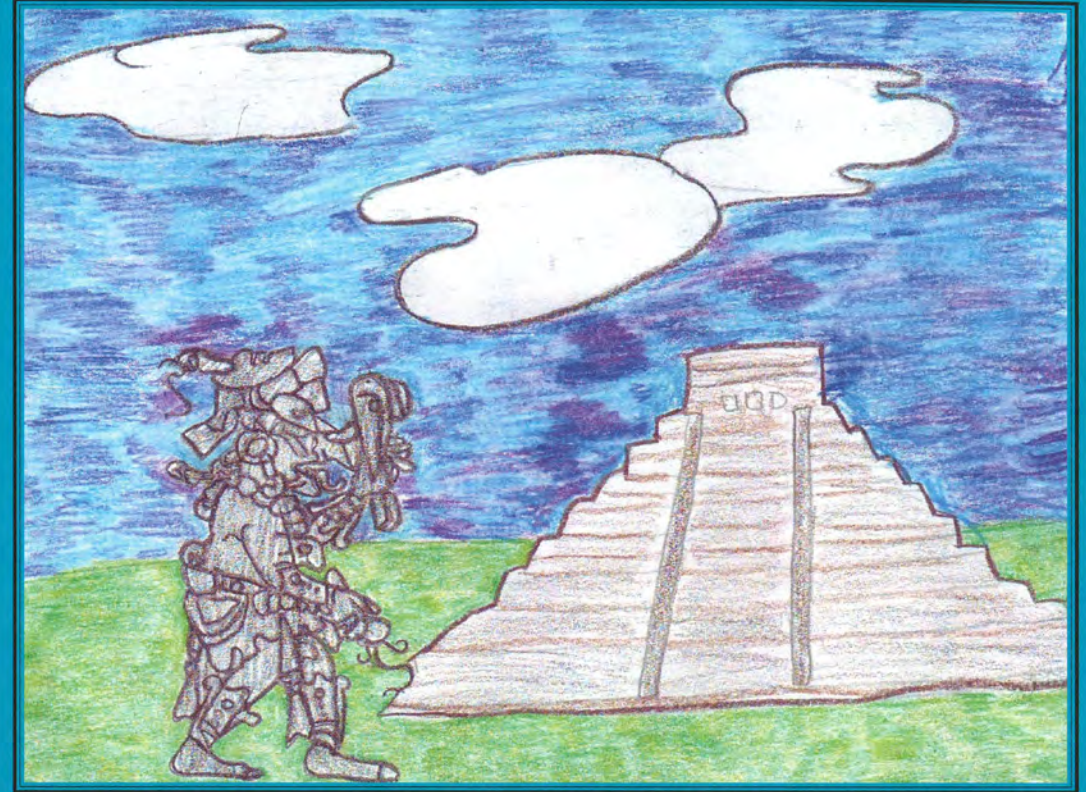
Rigoberta Menchù is a Quiche woman and a member of one of the largest of the 22 ethnic groups in Guatemala. She was born in Chimel, a city in Guatemala. When Rigoberta was 23 years old she told her story in Spanish, a language she had known for only 3 years. She told her story to a translator and finally got it published. It's about her life and her family's life too. She survived the genocide that destroyed her family and her community. Now she is determined to break the silence and to confront the extermination of her people. Rigoberta is EXTREMELY important because she is a Mayan Indian in Guatemala. When she was born her family was a peasant family. Her mother and her brother were both kidnapped and her father was burned alive. Rigoberta fought for her people and for doing that she received a Noble Peace Prize. Rigoberta had some tough times but she is still living and will be for many more years.

~Tori

*Rigoberta Menchù es una mujer de Guatemala que peleò por su gente.*

## R is for Rituals

The Ancient Maya had religious rituals and ceremonies to offer things to gods so that they would be blessed.



You're in your home, and you're next to a peccary that's tied up and was just killed by your father this morning. You're in the middle of a ritual, and your family is sacrificing this animal to the gods so that Chaac, the God of Rain will make it rain; and then the soil on your land will be moist for your crops. Good thing you're not a slave or a noble because your culture and people sacrifice animals, slaves, and sometimes nobles. There is not just one god, because the Maya are polytheistic which means you believe in more than one god. There are hundreds of gods. One for rain, sun, birth, and even more. The reason for sacrificing and having rituals is so that the gods will be pleased; you don't want your soil going dry, do you?

~Kristina

*Los Mayas tenían muchos rituales religiosos y creían que había más que un dios.*

## S is for Slash and Burn

Trees burned while the Mayan farmers cleared the land. They cut down plants and burned trees and bushes.



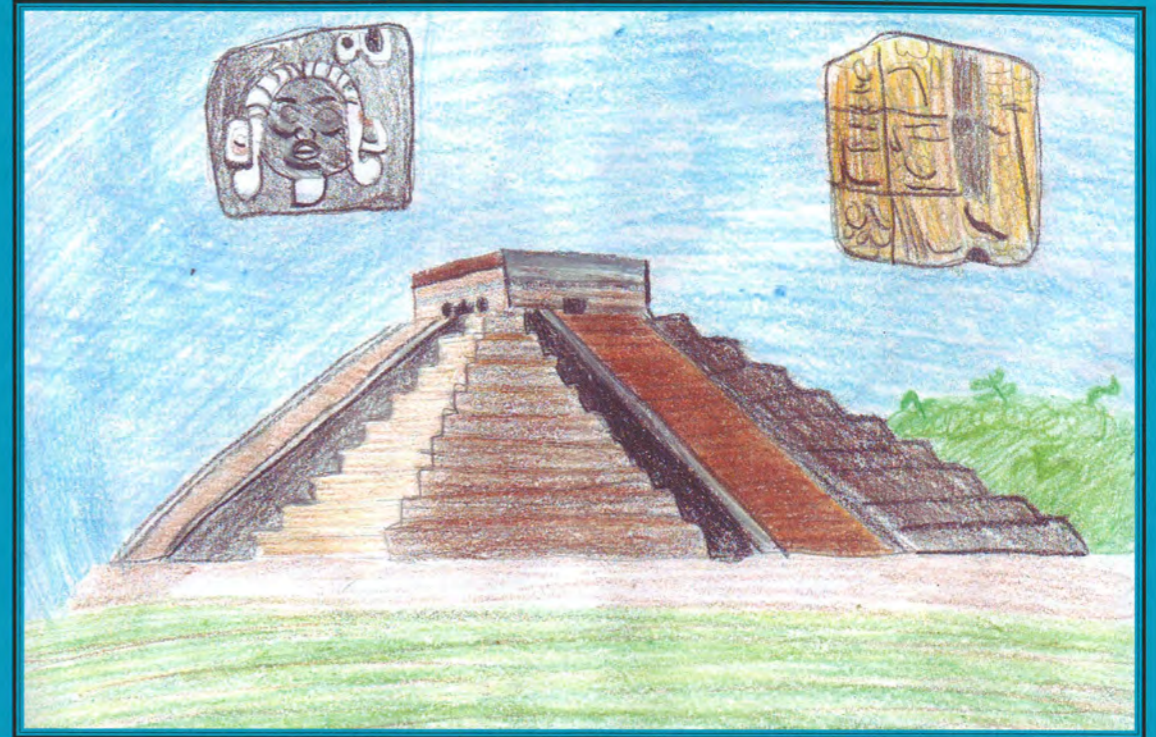
The crackling noise of fire burst into your ears, as the Maya farmers clear their land. They chop down plants and trees as they burned the remains. This happened so often because it wore out the land after two or four years of being used. So even though the Maya farmers had a lot of land, they would have to have some area of land recover. Once the Maya civilization began to grow, the farmers didn't provide enough food for their people. So this may be the case of why the civilization fell.

~Kristen G.

*Slash y burn es una técnica que los campesinos usan para desocupar la tierra.*

## S is for Steles

Steles are big pieces of stones that are carved or painted onto. They represent the gods and people both dead and living.



Imagine waking up in front of a huge, gray, stone temple surrounded by a vast, lush, green jungle. You can hear the sounds of the birds, practically calling your name. You can see the rabbits, peering out of their holes. You're thinking to yourself, 'Where am I?' You're at an ancient Mayan temple. Then something catches your eye. A large, 10 foot high piece of stone with engravings. They appear to be gods or hieroglyphics, the ancient Mayan writing. You have no idea what you are looking at so you pull out your newly bought book on Guatemala. You search and search for a page that has something to do with what you are looking at. Then you find it. 'Stelas or steles are large pieces of stone that are located in front of Mayan temples. They normally have carvings of gods or hieroglyphics. Names of both the dead and living were also carved on to Steles. Steles are used for funerals, boundaries, landmarks and for the Mayan Pride.

~ Samantha

*Stelas son grandes pedacos de piedra que son usados como frontera, sostienas, o funerales.*

## T is for Temples

Mayan temples were made for their religion. They would pray and sacrifice things there like animals.



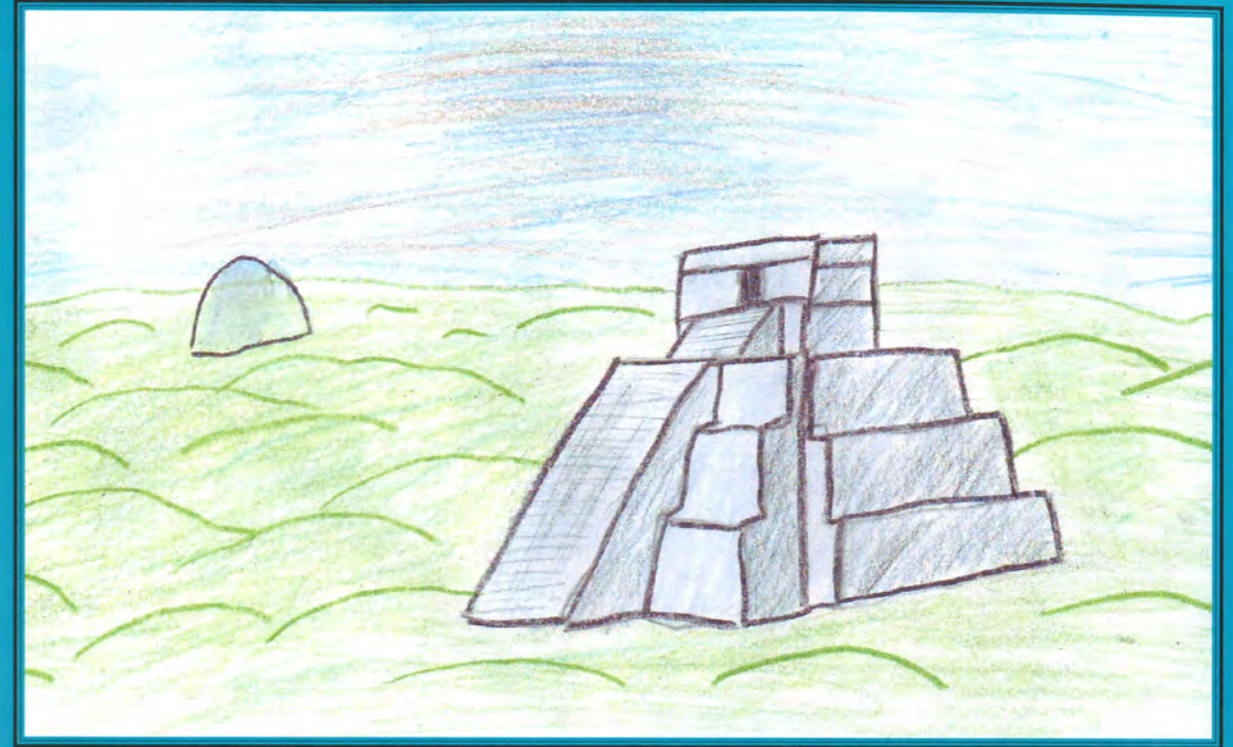
Temples were very religious places. Mayan people held rituals and ceremonies at temples. All the ceremonies and rituals were for one or more of the 160 gods. The temples were usually about 100 feet tall. Temples were mostly made out of limestone. In the temples, the Maya honored the gods. To make the gods happy they would also give sacrifices. The Maya would sacrifice prisoners or slaves when their masters had died. The Maya no longer sacrifice humans. Now the Maya only sacrifice animals.

~Bryan

*Los templos Mayas fueron parte de su religión. Ellos resar y sacrificar algunas cosas allí, como animales.*

## T is for Tikal

Tikal is an ancient city of the Maya with towering buildings over a green canopy of trees. This is certainly the most peaceful city of the ancient Maya. Would you like to go there?



Located deep in the jungle, the huge pyramids of Tikal were built in about 200 B.C., over 2,200 years ago! Mayas probably settled in Tikal because of the area's abundance of animals and flint, a hard stone. Flint was very important to the Maya because it was used to make all sorts of weapons such as spears or arrows and to trade with neighboring cities for items such as coffee, maize (corn), and cocoa beans. Some of the great kings of Tikal were Ah Cacan (Lord Chocolate) and Great Jaguar Paw. Weird, huh?

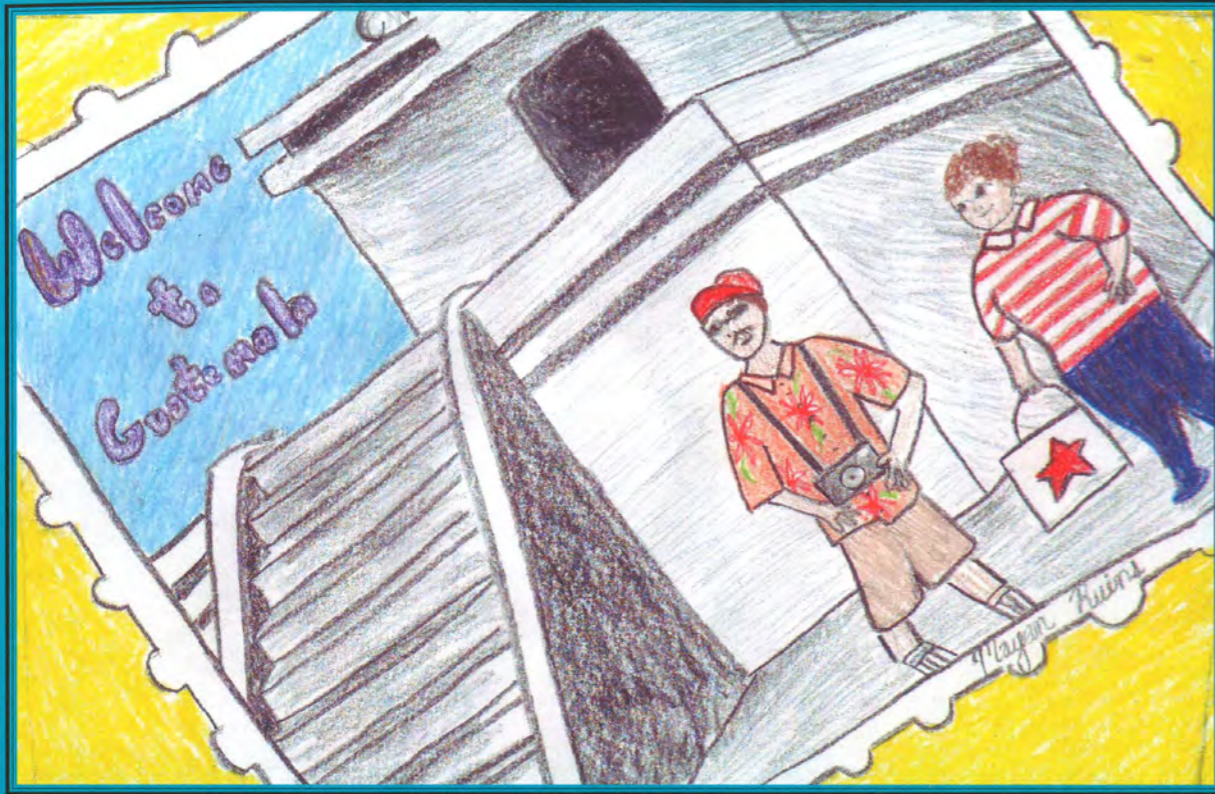
~Joshua

*T está para Tikal, una ciudad antigua del Maya.*



## T is for Tourists

Lots of tourists come to Guatemala. The Maya now sell gifts and changed their language to talk with tourists.



Imagine going to an exotic place with bright plants, wild animals and markets covered from head to toe with Mayan tradition. This is why people come from all over the world to see the Mayan ruins and traditions. You can still visit the Mayan ruins and be a part of their culture today. When you go to Guatemala you will hear the Maya speaking Spanish. They learned it to talk with other Mayan groups and tourists. They have also started selling souvenirs to tourists to remember their splendid vacation. About half the tourists come from El Salvador or the United States. As you can see, Guatemala is a tourist hot spot because there is so much to do and see.

~Aubrey

*Muchas turistas van a Guatemala. Los Mayas venden regalos y les hablan en español.*

## T is for Tzolkin

The Tzolkin (tiz.ol.kin) is the Maya's divine calendar. The word Divine means heavenly or godly. Tzolkin means "count of days" in English. It is said that the Tzolkin has powers and its powers connect to heaven.



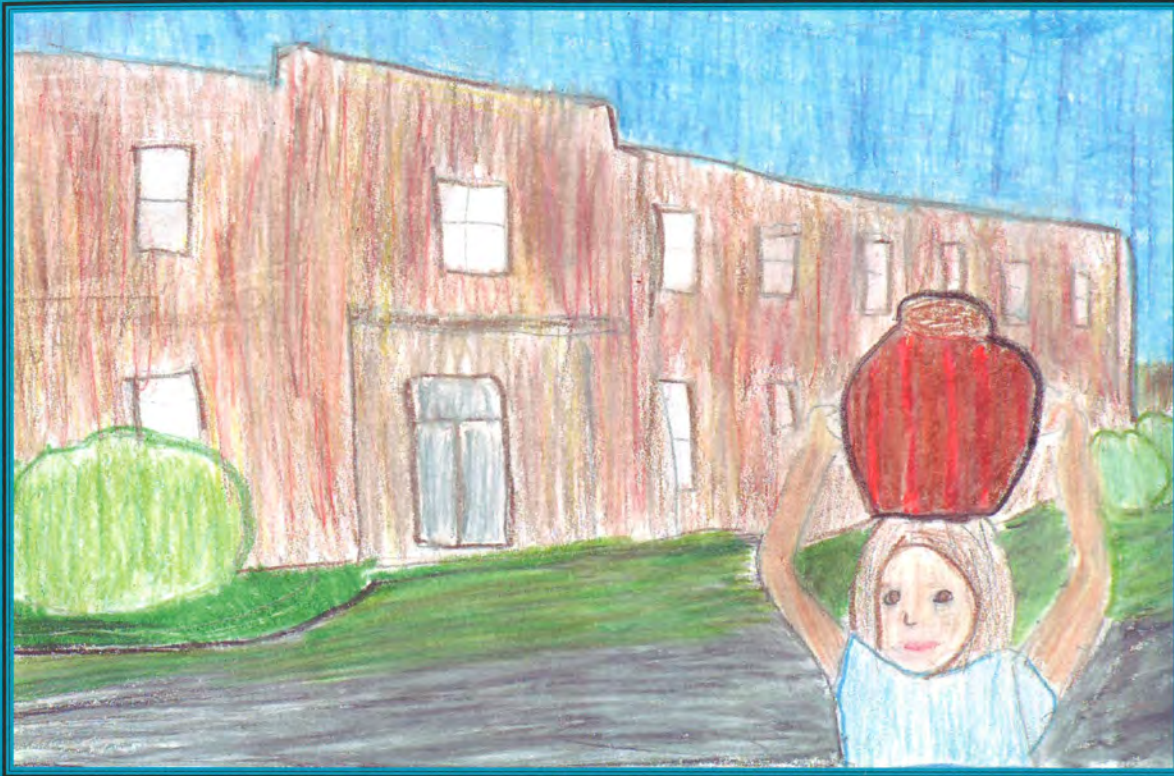
Imagine you are with a Mayan fortune teller. You ask her for your fortune and she reaches for a Mayan calendar. It happens to be the Tzolkin. She then tells you that the Tzolkin calendar only has two hundred and sixty days. Our calendar has three hundred and sixty five days! That is over 100 days less than our calendar! The Tzolkin was made 2,500 years ago. There are two other calendars besides the Tzolkin, the Long Count and the Haab. A calendar has certain markings on it called "glyphs." Each glyph has a different meaning and name. The glyph that has your birthday should tell information about you, such as your characteristics and personality. The Maya sometimes based their baby's name on the glyph they were born on. If your birthday's glyph said that you will be brave, then your parents would think you will grow up to be brave. The Tzolkin calendar is one of the most detailed calendars. The fortune teller puts back the calendar she tells you your fortune and you leave.

~Jonathan

*El Tzolkin es el calendario divino.*

## U is for Under Educated

In Guatemala people have to pay to go to school. Since a lot of families don't make much money they cannot pay for their kids to go to school. That's why many kids and adults are under-educated.



Under-Education is very common in Guatemala. Imagine if you couldn't go to school? Imagine you not being at school, but working all day not learning anything, but earning very very little money. Most Guatemalans didn't go to school because they didn't have enough money to pay for school. In Guatemala you have to pay to go to school, and Guatemalans aren't payed too much money. Also if children went to school it was for a very short period of time. For example they work in the day and go to school in the afternoon, unlike the United States. We go to school all day and don't have to work as kids. Often children only go to school from Kindergarten through 6th grade, and the rest of the years they have to work for money.

~Paloma

*Muchos niños en Guatemala son in-educados porque no pueden ir a la escuela.*

## U is for Uxmal

Uxmal is an ancient city in Mexico which is mean "built three times". One of the main gods they worship was the water god Chaac.



Uxmal means "thrice built" or "built three times" in the Mayan language. It is also an ancient ruined Mayan city of Yucatan in southeast Mexico. It's also one of the largest cities where about 25,000 Maya people lived. Images of the god Chac are everywhere at Uxmal temples because it represents the god of agriculture, fertility, rain and lightning. Maya's religious beliefs were to worship gods to help their crops grow and as long as they felt the gods were happy, they made sacrifices, prayers and rituals everyday. They also have some pyramids like "The Pyramids of the Magician" and it's about 117 feet high. This Pyramid is the result of 5 temples.

~Sabrina

*Uxmal es una ciudad en Mexico y tiene muchos templos.*

## V is for Vases and Ceramics

Vases and ceramics were used for gifts as well as to carry food in the ancient Maya times. They were made in the Classic time period by the artisans. An artisan is a craftsman, which is a person that does art.



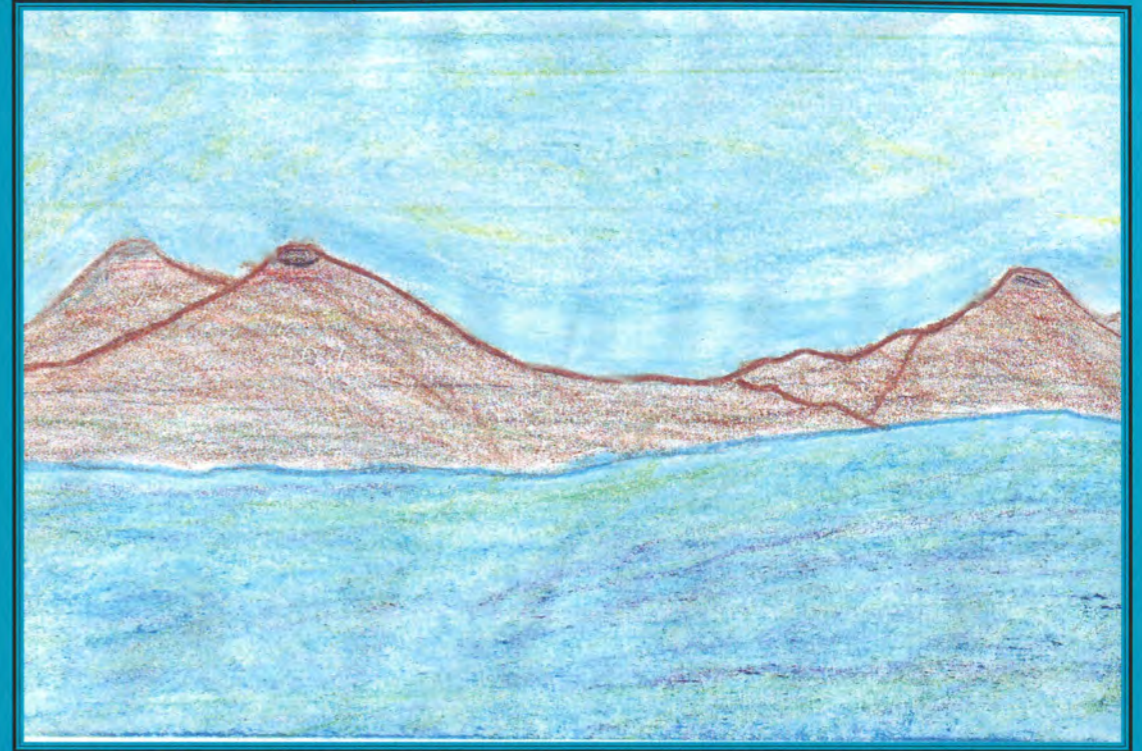
Ceramics is another word for pottery. Pottery are pots that the Maya used to serve food and sometimes even as gifts. The colors that were on the pots were used to tell them apart, they included: orange, red, black, brown, gray, and cream; for religious ceremonies, they used blue. They came up with ceramics in the Classic period. It was thought of by the artisans. They also came up with polychrome ceramics which means multi-colored pots. Each major Maya city has its own expression on the pots. Vases were also often used for gifts or to carry food. Vases are slightly different from ceramics. Ceramics are different types of art like figurines and pots. They also used the vases to trade sometimes. But most of the time they used them for food and gifts.

~Aziza

*Jarrones y ceramicas eran usados como regalos y para cargar comida en los años de los Mayas.*

## V is for Volcanoes

There are 33 volcanoes in the highlands of Guatemala. Most of Guatemala's strongest people live in the mountains.



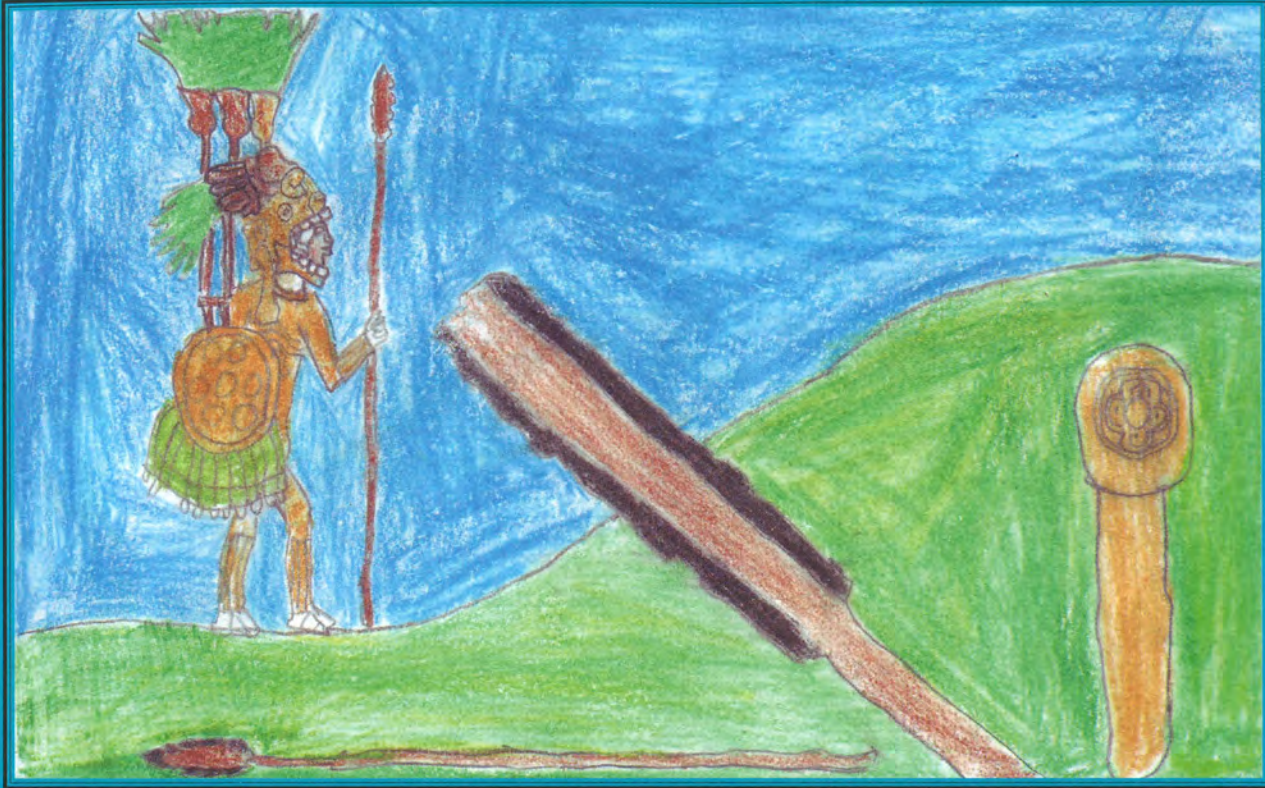
Imagine living near dozens of volcanoes. The air smelling of burnt ash. The rocky ground stinging your foot every step. There are 33 volcanoes in the highlands of Guatemala, and most of them are active. The traditions of Guatemala's native peoples are strongest in the highlands. Guatemala's highest peak is Tajumulco which towers at 13,845 feet above sea level. The volcanic ash from the eruptions gives Guatemala some of the most fertile agricultural land and finest soil in Central America. These volcanoes are the focus of many legends and stories. Anthropologists gives a reason why the Maya cities may have emptied. One is because of the volcanic explosions.

~Adriana

*Hay 33 volcanes en las montañas de Guatemala. La mayor parte de Guatemala' la gente más fuerte de s vive en las montañas.*

## W is for Weapons and Warriors

The Maya warriors used weapons such as clubs, spears, axes, swords, and arrows.



The Mayan warriors used clubs, spears, axes, swords and arrows. Each of these weapons had a purpose for either close combat or far away combat. Each time they went to war, they went against either the Aztecs or other enemies. That was their war life, because in both groups, their weapons were the same. Their warfare was usually for land. Everyone wanted more land for their people.

~Rodrigo

*Los Mayas usan armas para matar sus enemigos en sus geras contra lo Aztecs.*

## W is for Wildlife

The animals that lived near the Maya had coats that hid them from humans. There were rare animals that lived near the Maya like tapirs and peccaries.



You wake up and you see a jaguar staring you in the face, but you don't run. You know this is only your father's headdress, so you get up and exit your hut to make sure the jaguars and peccaries, which are a type of boar, aren't around. Wildlife played a big part in the ancient Maya's life. They worshiped jaguars because they were thought to be a symbol of bravery. Warriors occasionally wore their skins as a sign of their own bravery. Some local animals were: tapirs, peccaries, deer, rabbits, rodents, and fish. All of these animals had fur that camouflaged them with their surroundings. They hunted these animals for their: meat which they ate, skin which they used for decoration and occasional clothing, and their blood for warrior paint.

~Julia

*La piel que los animales tenían, les escondían del Maya.*

## X is for Xela

Xela is the second largest city in Guatemala. Which is located in the mists of various volcanoes in the heart of the Sierra Madre.



There is a great city named Xela. Its population is about 300,000. The population is about 65% indigenous or Amerindian, 32% Mestizo or Ladino, and 3% European. Around the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Xela started to make money by building the coffee industry. Xela has three major universities in its city. Nowadays, Xela is a good cultural part of the Mayan tradition, both of their ancient life style and their new modern life. Therefore their never-ending life style will always be marked in history.

~Christian

*Xela es una de las mas ciudades mas famosas y respectada para sa universidad.*

## X is for Xibalba

Xibalba (Shi-ball-ba) is the Maya Underworld, as said in the Mayan religious book, The Popol Vuh. The Maya underworld is a series of tasks you must undergo to go to heaven, which is at the center of the underworld.



You walk down the final pathways to the underworld and you know you will find five houses and if you withstand and escape them you can get to heaven. You enter the first house, Quequma-ha, the House of Gloom, where there is only darkness, and you disappear into the black. You grab for the door, but it is locked closed, and your heart starts pumping faster and faster. As you fumble around trying to find an exit, you tell yourself to calm down. You reluctantly enter the next house, Xuxulim-ha, the House of Cold. As you pass into the freezing room and slip on the ice, a memory of your past life flows over you. You lurch to the exit slowly and feel the warmth of the outside air on your skin as the door swings wide open. Only three tasks left to go and you know you will make it through. At the center of this underworld is your destination, the sacred Ceiba tree, heaven. Here the climate was always good, the tree was marvelously bountiful in it's fruit; you reach for the cacao that hung from the tree and savor the delights of your hardships.

~Tessa

*Xibalba es el infierno Maya.*

## Y is for Yax Pac and Copan

Yax Pac was the great and last king of Copan. Copan is a city of great learning where many people go to learn and work.



Yax Pac is the last king of the Mayan city, Copan. Yax Pac was Copan's last and greatest king. His name means "New son of the Horizon". When Yax Pac was crowned king in 736 AD, many improvements were made throughout the city. There were more buildings, and they were also very beautiful. But Yax Pac died in 800 AD, which wasn't a good time back then, because that was the fall of Copan. Copan is a great city located in Honduras. In Copan, you can learn many things, and a lot of people go there to learn and work. Scholars travel to Copan a lot. Scholars are people who study and learn with and from teachers. So, they're pretty much like students who go to school, which is what you and me are! Today, the ruins of Copan still stand tall and complete, just like they did back then in the reign of Yax Pac.

~Vanessa

*Yax Pac era el último rey de Copan. Copan es una ciudad en Honduras.*

## Y is for Young Moon Goddess

The Young Moon Goddess is the goddess of having children, the moon, water, and weaving (a type of sewing/crocheting). The Mayas called her Ix Chel, or Lady Rainbow.



The Young Moon Goddess represents the rabbit. The Mayas and Chinese see the rabbit on the face of the moon. To them the rabbit has a loose and cheerful spirit. She, as Ix Chel, has a shrine on an island on Cozumel where pilgrims came from all over the world. A crescent-shaped chair, what Ix Chel sits on in Mayan pictures, is her symbol. She had many titles such as the "spider's web catching the morning dew", Ix Chebal Yax, and Ix Kanleom. Her head is said to represent the noble Maya women. In some legends, Ix Chel had fought with her husband, the sun. He had finally had enough and poked out one of her eyes, that is why the moon is dimmer than the sun.

~Danielle

*La joven diosa de la luna es la diosa de la luna, agua, tejer, y nacimiento.*

## Z is for Zenial Passages and Astronomy

The Zenial Passage is when the sun goes directly over the earth. Since it's directly over the earth a straight pole in the ground has no shadow. Wouldn't that be cool if you looked straight up and there was the sun?



The Maya discovered that twice a year the sun comes very close to the earth. On these two important days the sun moves directly over the earth. For instance if you put a pole in the ground there would be no shadow because the sun would be right above it. This happens two times a year and is equally spaced out between the solstices. A solstice is the two longest days of the year. On these dates we set our clocks back or forward one hour. The Mayan priests would use this time as an opportunity to study the sun at a much closer level. This rare occasion is called the Zenial Passage. They wanted to learn about the sun because it helped them understand things about astronomy and the yearly calendar. The Zenial passage would help them figure out how long a year was. The Zenial Passage comes twice a year.

~Justin

*El pasa Zenial es cuando el sol se acerca mucho a la tierra y esta justo arriba de ella.*

## Z is for Zero and Math

The number zero is used in many numbers like in the number 10 and 20.



The number zero was important because it helped create larger numbers like 10 and 20. The Maya were the ones who invented the number zero. The math that they had was very complicated because they used drawings. The number zero was not used very often so they tried to make it appear more in numbers. This is how they did the numbers. To do math like divide, multiply, add and subtract they had to use the drawings at the top of the number so that they could recognize them. The drawings were not like the other colorful drawings, it was a drawing of a circle and a bar. The circle represented one and the bar represented five.

~Jocelin

*Los Mayas inventaron el zero. El numero zero era importante por que les ayudaban hacer muchos números más grandes como 10 y 20.*

## Glossary

### **A-**

Abundance- having a lot of something.  
Agricultural- The science, art, or occupation concerned with farming land, raising crops, and feeding, breeding, and raising livestock.  
Alliance- Having a close relationship with another group of people.  
Amerindian- Native American people from the United States or Canada.  
Anthropologist- A person who specializes in anthropology.  
Appearance- Coming into sight.  
Archaeological site- A site where discoveries of the past are saved and looked over.  
Authority- You're given the power to do the control and command people and things.  
Average- A-typical, in-the-middle amount. Normal.

### **B-**

Boundaries- Something that shows a border or limit.  
Bountiful- Giving freely and generously; liberal. Marked by abundance; plentiful.

### **C-**

Camouflage- Concealment by some means that alters or obscures the appearance.  
Canal- A waterway that is used for transportation or navigation.  
Ceremonies- A formal act where rituals according to culture are performed.  
Characteristics- Being a feature that helps to distinguish a person or thing.  
Civilization- A group of people that have reached a high level of science, culture, industry, or government.  
Confessions- Confessing, telling what you did.  
Conserve- To protect from loss or harm; preserve.  
Cotton- A soft, white, downy substance consisting of hairs or fibers; used in making fabrics, thread, wadding, etc.  
Country- The territory of a nation.  
Cultures- The totality of socially transmitted behavior patterns, arts, beliefs, institutions, and all other products of human work and thought.

### **D-**

Delights- Great pleasure; joy.  
Dehydrate- To take out the water or an element of water in something.  
Descendant- A person, animal, or plant that can be traced back to a certain group of people.  
Destination- A place where you travel to, or when you're sent.  
Dialect- A special variety of language.  
Divine- Of or pertaining to a god.  
Drought- A long period of dry weather that affects crops in that area.

### **E-**

Excess Water- Extra water; more water than needed.  
Embroider- To decorate with decorative or ornamental needlework.  
Engravings- The art of forming designs by cutting, a design or picture into a piece of metal, wood, etc.  
Ethnic- Relating to a group of people of your same race, religious, or cultural heritage.  
European- Someone who is from Europe.  
Exotic- Something unique and unusual.  
Expression- A way to show your emotions without using words.  
Extermination- To get rid of by destroying.

### **F-**

Fertile- Being able to produce crops.  
Figurine- A small figure that has been sculptured.  
Flint- A hard stone.

### **G-**

Geologist- A person who specializes in studies of the earth.  
Geometric- Being related to geometry.  
Genocide- The killing of a national, racial, political, or cultural group.  
Groom- The newly married man or man about to get married to the bride.  
Guatemala- A country in Central America.  
Gucumatz- Represented as feathered serpent god of the Popol Vuh who created humanity along with the aid of the god, Huracan.

### **H-**

Haab- A part of the Mayan Calendar.  
Halach Uinic- A ruler.  
Hardships- Extreme privation; suffering.  
Hieroglyphic- An ancient Mayan form of writing.  
Hieroglyphics- A system of writing, which pictorial symbols are used to represent meaning or sounds or a combination of meaning and sound.  
Highlands- Elevated land. A mountainous or hilly section of a country.  
Horizon- The apparent intersection of the earth and sky as seen by an observer.  
Huipil- A Mayan blouse.  
Hulls- The dry outer layer of a fruit.

### **I-**

Illness- Sickness, in unhealthy condition.  
Improvements- The act or process of improving. The state of being improved.  
Indigenous- Coming originally from where it was found, to be native to an area.  
Individually- One at a time; separately.  
Industry- A business activity.



Influence- Effecting a person.  
Innocence- Being innocent.  
Intricate- Hard to understand, work, or make.

## **K-**

Kinich Ahau- The Mayan Sun God.

## **L-**

Labor- A job or task done or to be done.  
Ladino- A Spanish speaking acculturated Indian or someone with both Maya and Spanish heritage.  
Landscape- Scenery, natural features.  
Landmarks- A feature of land that marks something.  
Language- Communication of thoughts and feelings through a system of signals, such as voice sounds, gestures, or written symbols.  
Loom- A hand made machine used for weaving.  
Lurch- An overwhelmed motion.

## **M-**

Macaw- Any of various large, long-tailed parrots.  
Maize- Corn.  
Marvelous- Excellent.  
Mestizo- A person of mixed culture, usually mixed European and Native American.  
Multiplied-To grow in amount, number, or degree. To breed or propagate.

## **N-**

Nauseous- Feeling sick or the feeling of nausea.  
Noble Peace Prize- Peace Prize should be awarded to the person who shall have done the most or the best work for friendship between nations, for the reduction of armies and for the holding and promotion of peace.  
Noblemen- A man of noble rank.  
Nobles- Rank in a political system or social class of a countries development.

## **O-**

Occasionally- Now and then; from time to time.  
Occasion- A specific date that you celebrate.

## **P-**

Patron- A person who is a customer, client, or paying guest of a store, hotel, or the like.

Percussion- A form of music which a sound is made by one this hitting another.  
Plantation- A farm that prepares or works on: cotton, coffee, and/or sugar cane.  
Platform- A straight flat surface that raises above the area it's in.  
Politics- The science or art of political government.  
Polytheistic- The belief in more than one god or in many gods.  
Primary- Most important.  
Precious- When something is special or rare.  
Preserving- To protect.

## **Q-**

Quiche- Also K'iche, a Native American person, one of the Maya ethnic groups.

## **R-**

Rebels- To oppose or go against a person or group of people.  
Resigned- Feeling or marked by resignation.  
Resonate- To call back a feeling of shared emotion.

## **S-**

Sacrificed- The offering of animal, plant, or human life or of some material possession to a god or goddess.  
Social Pyramid- The rankings of all the people in an area.  
Solstices- Two times of the year when the sun is at its greatest distance from the equator  
Successor- One that succeeds another.  
Symbolic- Serving as a symbol of something.

## **T-**

Tension- Stress between two different places.  
Transportation- Being transported from one place to another.  
Tzute- A shawl worn by Mayan women.

## **U-**

## **V-**

## **W-**

Weave- To form something using fabric or yarn with your hands.

## **Y-**

## **Z-**