

Shock 2: Maya Writing

Part 1: What's that say?

Each of the glyphs below represents a word in the Mayan language. Try to decipher them. For each write what word you think it is and what clues in the glyph make you believe that.



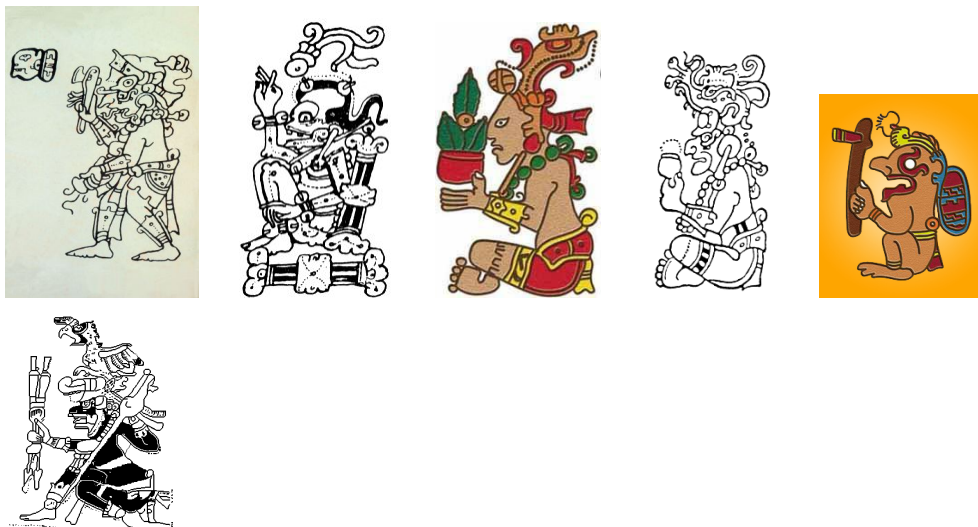
Part 2: How would you do it?

As a group design a glyph for the word “education”.

Shock 3: Maya Gods

Part 1: Who dat?

Each of the pictures below represents a god in the Mayan culture. Try to decipher them. For each write what you think that is the god of and what clues in the glyph make you believe that. You've been given some options below to help.



1. Chac 2. Ah Puch 3. Yum Caax 4. Itzamna 5. Ek-chua 6. “God L”

Options:

-god of maize (corn)

-god of chocolate

-god of death

-god of rain
-god of fire

-god of creation
-god of wind

-god of war and merchants
-god of winter

Part 2: Which god are you?

What would you be the god of? (Think of things that are important to you or you enjoy.)
Draw a glyph to represent yourself in this way.

Shock 1: Mayan Beauty

Read the section below and answer the questions as a group. When all 4 answers are correct you may move on to the next activity.

The concept of Mayan beauty was a bit different than our modern concept of what is attractive and it required a bit more work, too. Starting at birth, Mayan parents took careful steps to ensure that their children would prove to be quite striking. One of the most attractive features of the ancient Maya was to be slightly cross-eyed. This was accomplished from hanging beads over the noses of small children, training the muscles of the eyes to focus slightly inward. Another mark of beauty centered on the shape of the skull. Modification would begin quite early - in infancy, in fact - and the goal was a resulting flattened or cone shaped skull.

Other body modifications that led to beauty included filing the teeth (either in a "T" shape or into sharpened little points), ritual tattooing, scarification and many piercings. Mayans would often have multiple piercings on their heads. They would sometimes put pieces of bone through their nose. Their ear piercings were made larger and larger as they grew older eventually stretching their ears from the weight of the jewelry. Essentially, the more they could put on the better as it showed they had the wealth to afford it.

1. What does the word striking in line 3 mean?
 - a. hitting hard
 - b. to look good and stand out
 - c. strong and powerful
 - d. strange to look at
2. Which of these did the Mayans not do to look good?
 - a. Get multiple piercings
 - b. cross their eyes
 - c. color their eyes
 - d. flatten their heads
3. What can we assume from this passage?
 - a. Poor Mayans didn't try to be beautiful.
 - b. Beauty was very important to the Mayans.
 - c. Mayans tried to look scary by getting tattoos and piercings.
 - d. Mayans liked to hurt themselves.
4. Which statement *best* summarizes this section?
 - a. Mayan beauty was all about showing how rich you were.

- b. Mayan beauty had a religious purpose.
- c. Crossing your eyes is a great way to look beautiful.
- d. The Mayans did many things to look beautiful that we'd consider crazy today.

Key to glyphs:

- 1. Tree
- 2. Shield
- 3. Warrior
- 4. Child
- 5. Jaguar

c/o: www.arkansasdiscoverynetwork.org/kids-quest/games.html

Part III: How a Glyph is Born

Draw a picture to represent a word or basic phrase.

Pass the drawing to another person and have them recreate it.

Continue this a few times each time shortening the amount of time allowed to draw.

When finished you have a glyph!