

(To improve your Spanish comprehension skills, please watch the presentation of this topic on YouTube, and read this along with the Spanish version of the newsletter.)

Bulletin number 7. On July 15, teacher Rebeca Gonzalez gave the presentation. “Corn, more than a food “, she talked about how important this product is for Guatemalans, not only for being a food but also for its importance in our culture. Below is a summary.

Corn, more than a food

OBJECTIVE

- Communicate to the participants that corn is very important for our culture because according to Maya-Quiché mythology, the descendants of the Mayans were created with corn.
- Invite participants to immerse themselves in the culture and learn more about two important literary works.

HISTORY

- The **Teocintle** is the ancestor of corn. It is a Nahuatl word: **Teo** (God). (Nahuatl is a language used by indigenous people around Mexico).
- Cintle (Seed)

CHARACTERISTICS COMPARED TO CURRENT CORN

- Double the nutrients and protein
- Three times more fiber
- Only a third of starches and carbohydrates
- Seed very resistant to adverse environmental conditions
- Longer seed viability time

Maize itself was domesticated about 10,000 years ago by Mesoamerican indigenous peoples and was introduced to Europe in the 17th century. It is currently the cereal with the highest production in the world, surpassing wheat and rice. The Mexica and Mayan people considered it is very important, since according to their beliefs, man is made of corn.



Corn is the identity and Cultural Heritage of the Nation.

It is part of the Mayan Cosmovision (a way of understanding the world.) It is a crop, and the knowledge about it has been passed down from generation to generation.

The colors of corn and their meaning.

The color white, is the east, it represents the dawn. In the creation of man with it bones were formed.

The color yellow is the west, it represents the sunset. With this corn, meat was formed.

The color red, is the south, represents the birth of man. It is the corn from which the blood of man was created.

The color black, it is the north, represents death. But it was also used to form the eyes and hair of man.

Corn is for Guatemala Cultural Heritage of the Nation. August 13 is the “National Corn Day”

INTRODUCTION TO THE LECTURE

Two Literary Works of Guatemala:

1. **The Popol Vuh**: Sacred book of the Maya-Quichés (a sub-group of Mayan people). It talks about the creation of the world, the adventures of two twin Gods Hunahpú and Ixbalanqué. It also mentions that perfect men were created with the 4 colors of corn.
2. **Men of Corn**, written by Miguel Ángel Asturias, the Nobel Prize winner in Guatemalan Literature. It is based on the Maya-Quiché theory that man is made of corn. He criticizes the loss of the identity of peasants and the exploitation by international companies that also dispossess them of their lands.

GRAMMATICAL TOPIC

Use of the verb To Be (*SER*)

Ser is for description.

For example:

<i>Es un ancestro del maíz.</i>	It is an ancestor of corn.
<i>El maíz blanco es el Este.</i>	White corn is the east.
<i>El maíz amarillo es el Oeste.</i>	Yellow corn is the west.
<i>El maíz rojo es el sur</i>	Red corn is the south.
<i>El maíz negro es el norte</i>	Black corn is the north.

Phrases with the word Corn

“Sembrado para comer es sagrado sustento del hombre que fue hecho de maíz. Sembrado por negocio es hambre del hombre que fue hecho de maíz.” Miguel Ángel Asturias.

"Sown for food is man's sacred sustenance that was made of corn. Sown for business is the hunger of the man who was made of corn."

Los guatemaltecos son orgullosamente hombres y mujeres de maíz.

Guatemalans are proudly men and women of corn.

Tener pelos de elote - Tener el pelo rubio.

To have corn hair - To have blond hair.

EXPANDING YOUR VOCABULARY

el maíz	the corn
la semilla	the seed
la fibra	the fiber
los almidones	the starches
medioambientales	Environment
hace unos ...	a few ... ago
el siglo	the century
la siembra	Planting
el grano	the grain
nivel	Level
el trigo	the wheat
el arroz	the rice
formar parte	be part of
la milpa	the cornfield
el este	East
el amanecer / el nacimiento del sol	Dawn
el oeste	West
el atardecer / la puesta de sol	sunset / sunrise
el nacimiento	the birth
la muerte	Death
el mundo	the world
el ser humano	the human being
los fracasos	the failures

los dioses	the gods
el mejor	the best
las mazorcas	the corncobs
la masa	Dough
los huesos	the bones
la carne	the meat
la sangre	the blood
las costumbres	Customs
las creencias ancestrales	ancestral beliefs
los campesinos	Farmers
sagrado sustento	sacred sustenance
negocio	Business

Register now, and don't miss our eighth class open on August 19, where you will learn more about the culture "The Guatemalan Patron Saint Festivities." led by teacher Rosa María.

Subscribe and invite others to our (YouTube Channel) [El Maíz. más que un alimento](#) and (Facebook Group) [ProntoSpanishTutors](#).

¡Gracias por participar y hasta pronto!