

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Magnificent Maya

# Exhibit Extras

Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Harvard University

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*Maya Animals*

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## Breaking News!

A group of students visiting the Peabody Museum today received high praise from the museum staff.

“I have never seen a group of students that knew how to visit a museum so well,” said Director Jeff Pilbeam.

Who are these students? You! That’s because you

are following this list of the best ways to visit a museum:

- Use indoor voices
- Walk at all times—no running
- No food, drink, or candy in the galleries
- No touching, climbing on, or leaning on exhibits and cases
- Students and chaperones stay

- together in their group
- Respect each other and the other visitors in the museum
- If you have a camera, keep the flash off so the light does not damage the items on display
- Use this guide for fun activities, great stories, and lots of exploration!

THANK YOU!

## The Maya Today

Did you know that close to seven million people who are native speakers of Maya languages live in Mexico and Central America today? Another one million live in the United States.

They live in cities and in towns. They farm and work in offices. They shop in markets and go to school.

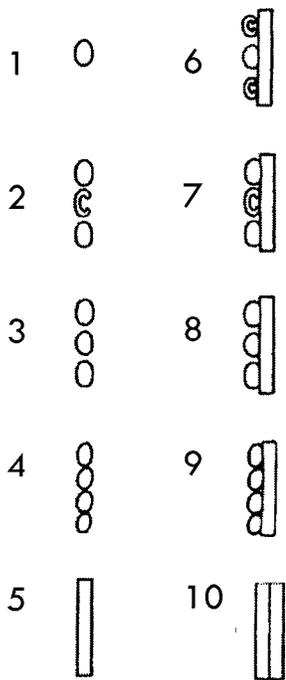


Atiteca girls.

I am the logo of the Peabody Museum. For the Maya, I represent maize.



# Maya Numbers

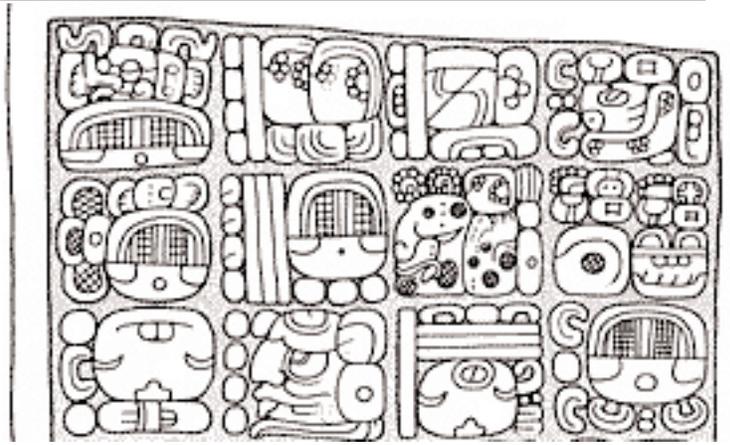


The Maya wrote their numbers using three symbols. They used a dot for one and a bar for five. A shell shape was used for zero. Try some basic Maya math!

$$\bullet + = + \bullet \bullet = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$= - \bullet \bullet \bullet = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

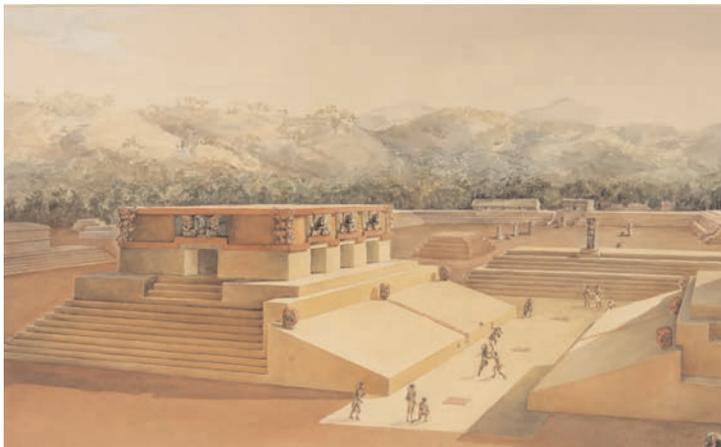
The Maya recorded dates and numbers on many of their sculptures and buildings.



As you explore the items on the museum's third floor, see how many numbers you can find!

Keep a tally.

# Play Pitz



Left: reconstruction of the ball park at Copan, Honduras. Above: Maya drawing of a ball player

The Maya called their ballgame "pitz," a word that means "ball." There is evidence that both men and women were ball players.

Pitz was played in different ways over time. The game could be played in a long court with sloping sides.

Players had to keep the ball in play without using

their hands or feet. The solid rubber ball came in many sizes and could weigh up to 9 pounds.

Hitting a ball that heavy with your hip would really hurt. Ouch! So ball players often wore leather hip guards and other protection.

Unscramble these *pitz* words!

- labl \_\_\_\_\_
- urtco \_\_\_\_\_
- yrealp \_\_\_\_\_
- tcapnia \_\_\_\_\_
- rbureb \_\_\_\_\_
- tesno \_\_\_\_\_
- amte \_\_\_\_\_
- udrag \_\_\_\_\_

Clue list:

- Court
- Guard
- Stone
- Team
- Captain
- Ball
- Player
- Rubber

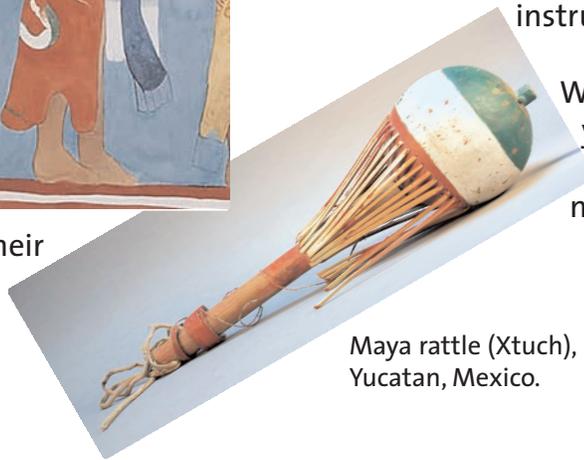
# Mural Art and Music



The original wall paintings or murals from Bonampak, Mexico, were painted in the late 700s! In different scenes, musicians play rattles, drums, and wooden trumpets.

What materials were used to make the instrument?

What sound do you think the instrument made?



Maya rattle (Xtuch), Yucatan, Mexico.

For the Maya, playing music was a way to call to their gods and ancestors. What does music mean to you?

# Maya Animals

Match the description with the picture of the animal below.



k'uk'  
quetzal



chan  
snake



te'  
tree



nal  
corn



kab  
bee



tz'i'  
dog



bahlam  
jaguar



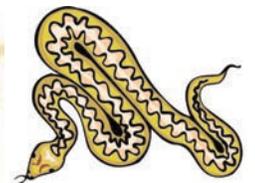
ha'  
water

1. Bahlam: I am a powerful hunter, even at night, and the Maya saw me as a symbol of authority and a part of the underworld.

2. K'uk': The ruling Maya considered me sacred and sought my long tail feathers as symbols of power and wealth.

3. Chan: Maya women weave the path I make as I move into some of their textiles.

Here are a few Maya glyphs that represent words. Circle those that are animals.



# Once Upon a Time ... A Maize Story

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The Maya believed maize was a gift from the gods. They sacrificed to the gods to insure a good crop.

But, did you know that maize plays a very important role in the Maya story of the creation of people?

The gods wanted to create beings that would worship them. So, they tried making creatures out of mud, but these crumbled and dissolved.

Next, they made creatures of wood, but the gods couldn't understand what these

beings were saying. These creatures were turned into monkeys.

At last, the gods created creatures from maize. The gods were very pleased with these beings. These were the first people.

## [Virtual] Travel

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Want to learn more about the Maya? Visit these websites!

[www.mayadiscovery.com](http://www.mayadiscovery.com)

Mundo Maya Online!

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/mayacode](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/mayacode)

PBS Cracking the Maya Code

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/maya](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/maya)

PBS Lost King of the Maya

Want to share what you have learned and seen at the Peabody Museum with your friends and family?

The museum is open free to Massachusetts residents  
Sundays 9 am–12 noon and Wednesdays 3–5 pm  
(September-May)



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