

CREATION OF THE MAYA BY REBECCA HINSON

(TRADITIONAL LEGEND)

Questions for *Creation of the Maya* by Rebecca Hinson

LEVEL 1: What does it say?

General Understanding

- Explain the story, quoting from the text.

Key Details

- The author says that the Maya were created and destroyed twice. What details does she give?
- What part did animals play in the gods' decision to create people out of corn?

LEVEL 2: How does it work?

Vocabulary

- What are the meanings of Maya, ancient, dissolve, village, divine, ground, and dough?

Structure

- The *Aztec Calendar Stone* says that the sun god was destroyed four times by natural disaster. *Creation of the Maya* says that the Maya people were created and destroyed twice. How did the author present the final incarnations of the sun god and the Maya?

Author's Craft

- How is Dr. Miller's point of view similar and different?

Mary Ellen Miller writes, "When the gods formed humans of earth, they collapsed as mud; when the gods carved humans out of wood, the forms looked like people, but they could not worship the gods and so the gods destroyed them. The gods succeeded in populating the earth only when humanity was shaped from maize, the very staff of human life."

LEVEL 3: What does it mean?

Author's Purpose

- The author says that the color of the Maya is beautiful. How does she tie in divine creation to support her assertion?

Intertextual Connections

- The crown of the Maya princess on page 20 is made of silver and jade, which can both be found in Guatemala. The feathers are from the quetzal, the national bird of Guatemala. What Aztec emperor wore a headdress with quetzal feathers? Learn about it at the following link: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-americas/early-cultures/aztec-mexica/v/feathered-headdress-aztec>
- Here is a story of an old Quiche of Quezaltenango from *Maya History and Religion*. "A spirit living in the volcano of Siete Orejas had the only supply of maize in the world, but some evil spirits burned his maize so that the grain on the outside was charred black, that part-way in was scorched, and that in the center remained untouched. Since then, there have been black, yellow, and white maize in the world." How does this story give more meaning to *Creation of the Maya*?

LEVEL 4: What does it inspire you to do?

Opinion with Evidence or Argument

- The Maya princess on page 20 wears a huipil. Integrate information from the following sources to write or speak about huipils.
<https://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/maya/maya5.htm>
http://www.terraexperience.com/p_huipils.html

Sources

Mary Ellen Miller, *The Image of Man and Nature In Classic Maya Art and Architecture*.

Florida Museum of Natural History, "Images of the Maya"

John Eric Sidney Thompson, *Maya History and Religion*