



Mexico: Meso-American Indigenous People – the Huichol People

Post-visit Activity: Graphic Organizer

Name: _____ Date: _____

Notice the list of symbols commonly used in all Huichol art. Write the symbol beside the Huichol meaning in the chart. Use what you have learned about the Huichol People to help you. This may require some research.

Commonly Used Symbols

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|-----------|-------------|
| eagles | cacti | wolves | gourd bowls |
| the sun | snakes | deer | flowers |
| birds | turtles | scorpions | candles |

Symbol	Meaning
	Used to repel evil and bad luck. Although a deadly species inhabits their land, they believe the spirit of this creature protects them.
	This plant is a symbol for life, health, success, and power. It appears in most Huichol art.
	This brings light and illumination to the world. Understood as the "master of the heavens".
	These colorfully decorated containers carry important symbols during ceremonies. They are also placed in shrines and sacred sites throughout Huichol lands.
	The Huichol believe that rain consists of millions of these creatures. They are valued for their work in cornfields eating rodents and pests.
	These are used in all Huichol ceremonies. In a healing ceremony, the patient's head is adorned with them.
	Believed to be messengers to and from the gods.
	Believed to be assistants of the rain goddess responsible for replenishing the water in underground springs.
	These items represent the illumination of the human spirit because they hold the sacred gift of the sun and fire gods.
	These creatures are thought to be "carriers of spirits" because Huichol believe they are descendants of this animal from ancient times.
	This animal is one of the most important to the Huichol people because its spirit guides the shaman and it gives its life willingly to those who hunt them in a sacred manner.
	Huichols admire this creature as the most magnificent of all birds and call it "mother of the sky".



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Post-visit Activity: Graphic Organizer **KEY**

Symbol	Meaning
Scorpions	Used to repel evil and bad luck. Although a deadly species inhabits their land, they believe the spirit of this creature protects them.
Cacti	This plant is a symbol for life, health, success, and power; It appears in most Huichol art
The Sun	This brings light and illumination to the world; “master of the heavens”
Gourd Bowls	These colorfully decorated containers carry important symbols during ceremonies. They are also placed in shrines and sacred sites throughout Huichol lands.
Snakes	The Huichol believe that rain consists of millions of these creatures. They are valued for their work in cornfields eating rodents and pests.
Flowers	These are used in all Huichol ceremonies. In a healing ceremony, the patient’s head is adorned with them.
Birds	Believed to be messengers to and from the gods.
Turtles	Believed to be assistants of the rain goddess; responsible for replenishing the water in underground springs.
Candles	These items represent the illumination of the human spirit because they hold the sacred gift of the sun and fire gods.
Wolves	These creatures are thought to be “carriers of spirits” because Huichol believe they are descendants of this animal from ancient times.
Deer	This animal is one of the most important to the Huichol people because its spirit guides the shaman and it gives its life willingly to those who hunt them in a sacred manner.
Eagles	Huichols admire this creature as the most magnificent of all birds and call it “mother of the sky”.