

Quetzalcoatl

According to ancient legend, the Maya and Aztec god *Quetzalcoatl* once lived among the people of ancient Mexico. He is responsible for teaching them religion, art, culture, and agriculture. This gentle god told the people that human sacrifice was evil and that he preferred gifts of butterflies. Quetzalcoatl was driven out of Mexico by a rival god, but before he rode away on a winged serpent, he promised to return and rule Mexico.

Quetzalcoatl is represented as a feathered serpent and is associated with the planet Venus. Considered to be a great benefactor of mankind, Quetzalcoatl was the god of wisdom and knowledge.



Project

Use the style of ancient Mayan artists to color a picture of the Indian god Quetzalcoatl.

For the Teacher

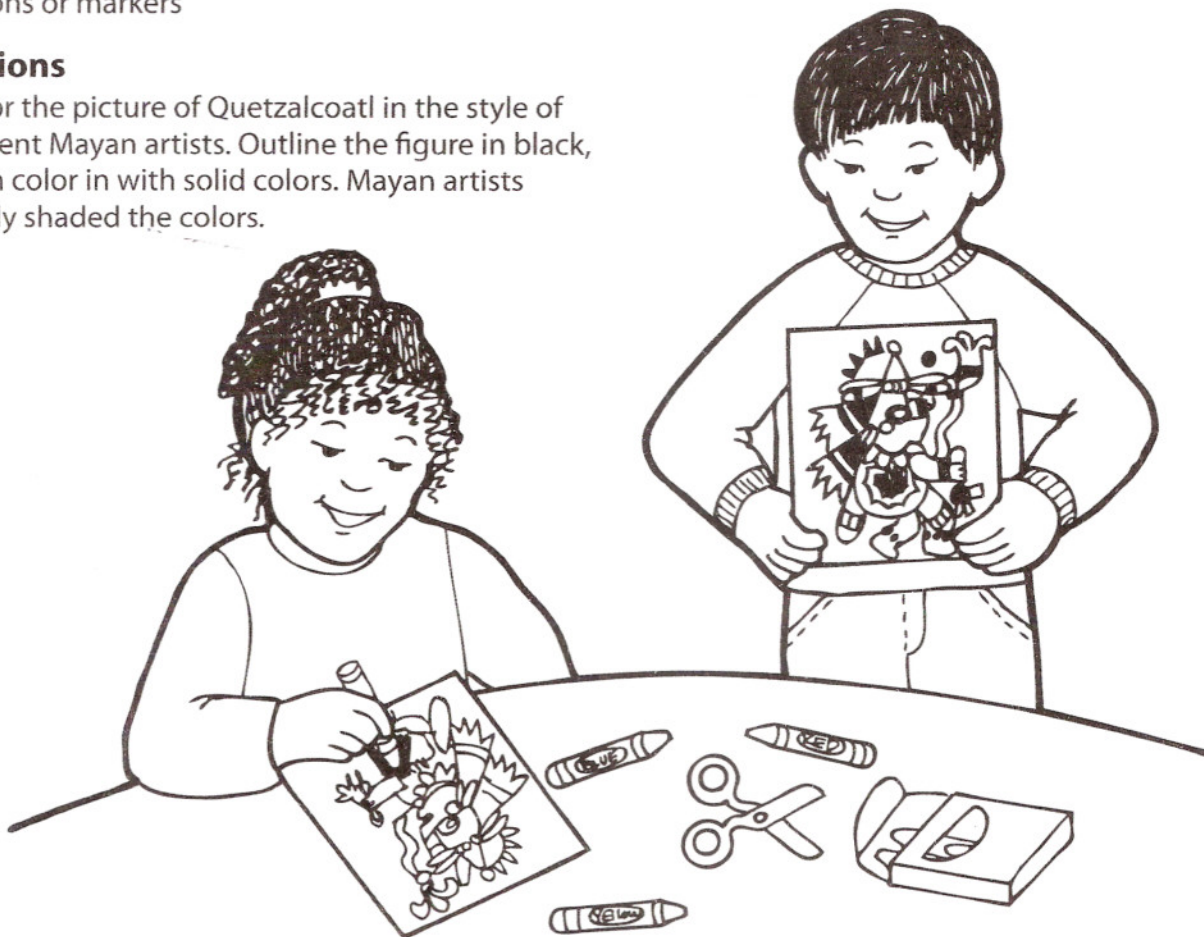
Copy one Quetzalcoatl picture (page 19) per student.

Materials

- Quetzalcoatl picture
- scissors
- crayons or markers

Directions

1. Color the picture of Quetzalcoatl in the style of ancient Mayan artists. Outline the figure in black, then color in with solid colors. Mayan artists rarely shaded the colors.



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