

Magnificent Maya Gallery Hunt

Cultural Survival: Continuing Traditions

Maya Animals



k'uk'
quetzal



chan
snake



te'
tree



nal
corn



kab
bee



tz'i'
dog



bahlam
jaguar



ha'
water

Welcome to the Peabody Museum! Today you'll be an **anthropologist**, which means you'll be studying people. Because we can't study the people themselves, we're going to look at the objects they make or use, which are called **artifacts**. Pay close attention to the ways in which traditions in the past have been carried through to the present.

Just like the scientists who work behind the closed doors of this museum, you'll want to write down what you learn. You can explore the museum in any order you want, and you can pick and choose which parts of the hunt you want to do. **Just remember to respect other adventurers: move slowly and quietly in the Museum.**

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!

Once Upon a Time ... A Maize Story



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

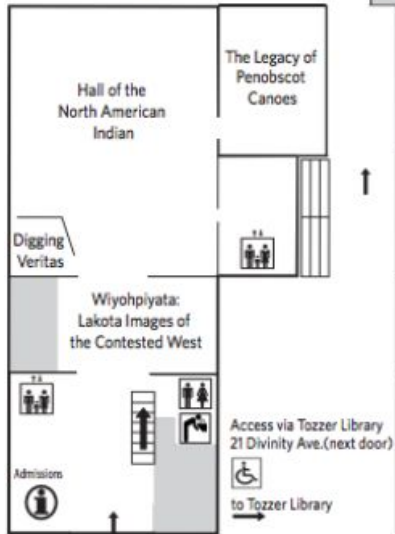
beings were saying. These creatures were turned into monkeys.

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

Did you know? The ancient Aztecs used cacao as a form of currency—in fact, as recently as the mid-19th century these beans were used as money in some parts of Mesoamerica. Very wealthy people who drank a special cacao drink could literally say they were “drinking” their money!



Did you know? The Ancient Maya used sulfur to “vulcanize” rubber, which keeps it soft and bouncy. We still use sulfur to vulcanize rubber today! Can you find the large sulfur crystals nearby?

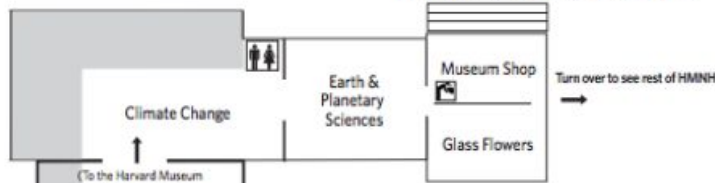


Peabody Entrance 11 Divinity Avenue

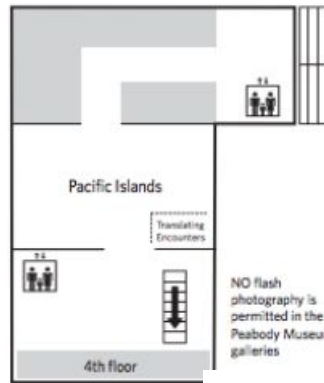
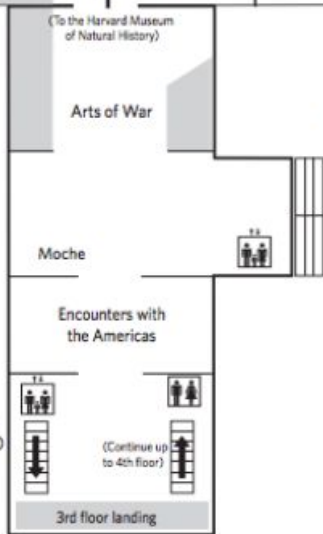
1 NATIVE AMERICA

3 LATIN AMERICA

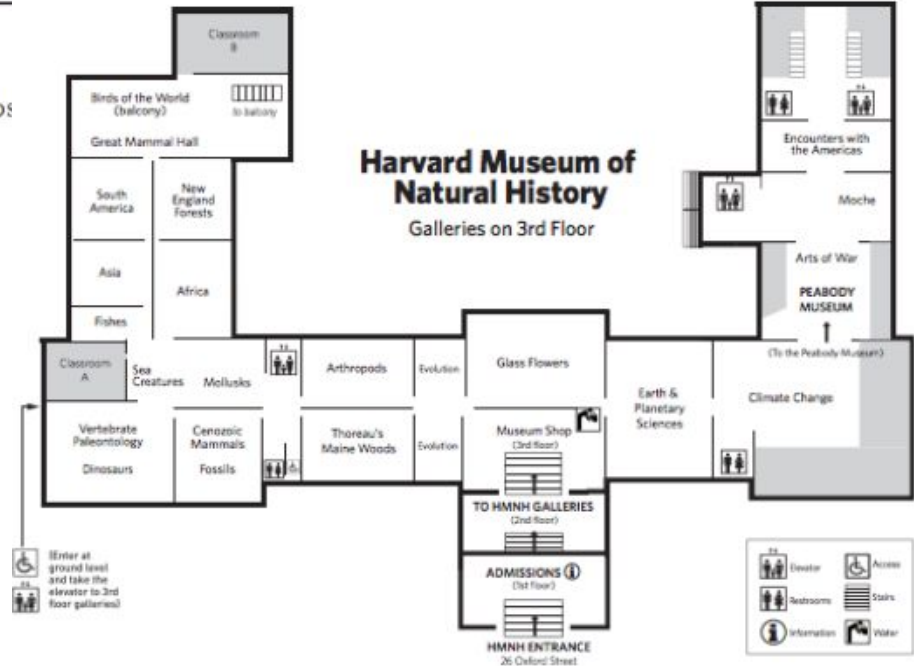
4 PACIFIC ISLANDS



PEABODY MUSEUM
Galleries on 1st, 3rd, and 4th floors



Harvard Museum of Natural History
Galleries on 3rd Floor



Maya Numbers

1.

2.

1 0

6



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!

2



7



3



8



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

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

4



9



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

5



10



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

Keep a tally.



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

Can you find me in the *Storied Walls* exhibit?



Challenge

Animals

Go to the "South American Animals" room and look at the animals that the Ancient Maya, Aztecs, and Inca would have known.

Can you find and name the animals described below?

The Ancient Maya believed that I was once plain, and that all the other birds donated feathers to make me beautiful. The Aztecs believed that slain warriors were reincarnated as me. My 600 varieties are only found in the Americas, so it was not until they came to the "New World" that the Europeans admired me. But the great demand for my beautiful plumes meant the death of many of my kind. I am a:



3.

I am a symbol of power. According to the Ancient Maya, I protected the royal family and helped communication between the living and the dead. I was feared and admired for my strength and agility. I am even a good swimmer! I am a:

4.

The Inca used me as a pack animal and for wool. They also used me to make leather sandals and rope, and burned my excrement to keep warm! I was domesticated over 5,000 years ago (just after the horse), and was one of only four domesticated animals in the pre-Colombian Americas. I am a:

