

MACHI NEWS

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In the early 20th century, the Belizean government established Reservations for Maya people in Toledo. For the last 15 years, the Toledo Maya have fought the state for indigenous rights of ownership to this land.



In 2008, the Toledo Maya vs. the Belizean government went to the Belizean Supreme Court. They have awaited a decision ever since.



Finally, on June 28, 2010, the Maya WON the right to customary land tenure. The celebration included a performance of the Cortez Dance, sponsored by MACHI.

MACHI Announces Two New Grants for Indigenous Communities and Archaeologists

This month MACHI announced the release of two new grant opportunities: the Bidirectional Knowledge Exchange Grant and the Community Heritage Conservation Grant. The Bidirectional Knowledge Exchange Grant (deadline: Dec. 31) is open to archaeological projects interested in conducting participatory archaeology in the Maya region that including elements of knowledge exchange with local and indigenous communities. The Community Heritage Conservation Grant (deadline: Oct. 31), available to indigenous communities and NGOs in the states of Yucatán, Quintana Roo, and Campeche, México, gives indigenous groups the opportunity to create and implement their own heritage conservation and education programs. Contact MACHI for more info!

Welcome to Witzil Ha!

This month the radio team at Tumul K'in Center for Learning in Belize began developing the story line and characters of their radio series "Xyaab' kux loq' laj tzuultaq'a yakan ma' lo' witzil hook" (Echoes of the Sacred Mountains in Q'eqchi'). The series will focus on Maya values, chronicling life in the small Q'eqchi' village of Witzil Ha in the Toledo District, and the family of 17-year old Lucas Moh. The team recently visited the communities of San Benito Poite and San Lucas to conduct surveys of local conceptions of Maya values. This work will continue through the summer; writing will begin this Fall.

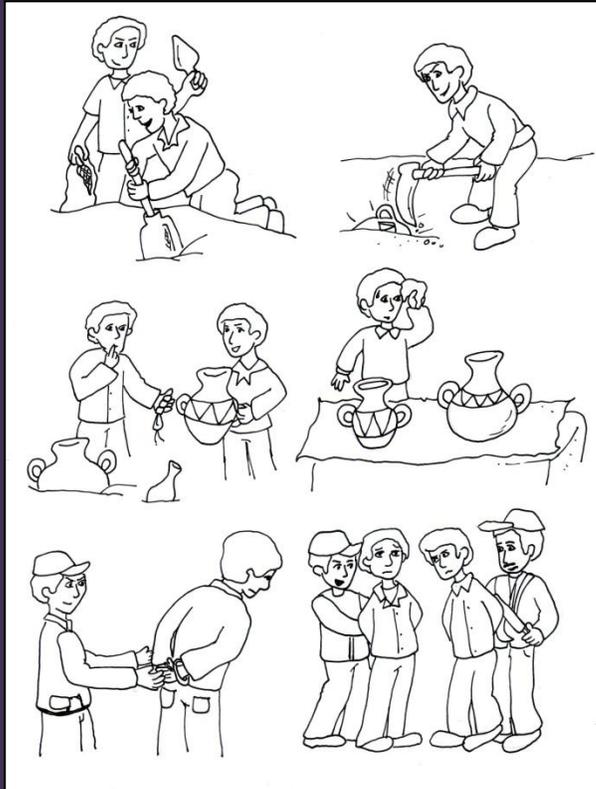
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A scene from one workbook illustrates the perils of looting in Guatemala.

Teaching Heritage Conservation and Cultural Identity in School??

In Guatemala, Maya people are a majority (around 60%) of the population. Yet the public school curriculum spends as much (if not more) time teaching children about the history of Europe as they do the history of the Maya people of Guatemala. In the department of El Petén, MACHI is working with Fundación ProPetén and MINEDUC, the Ministry of Education, to develop curricula for third and fourth graders that celebrates ancient and modern Maya culture and places. The curricula features episodes of the audio series *Entre Dos Caminos* (At the Crossroads) produced by MACHI and ProPetén in 2007 and 2008. The program also includes two workbooks filled with games, stories, and drawings by Carin Steen (of AACR) and local artist, Deydamia Cano. Currently, teachers in the communities of Ixlú and La Caoba are testing the program in their classes. Their input on the program will be invaluable to its success when the program is finally implemented in 2010/2011.

Community Mapping in La Pintada, Honduras

This month Arte Acción Copán Ruinas began a children's community mapping project in the community of La Pintada in Honduras.

Participating students are learning to read and make maps, and to survey their households, using AACR's trademark creative methodology.

The project's goal is to produce paper and 3-D maps to share with the whole community of La Pintada.



Help fight the myth of Maya extinction and give Maya people a voice in their own past!

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