

ZAPOTEC INDIGENOUS TRIBE
THE CLOUD PEOPLE

BY JOAN BOYLE

ENJOY YOUR TRAVELS THROUGH OAXACA, MEXICO AS YOU LEARN ABOUT THE ZAPOTECOS.

Watch out for Jack! He comes from England like me and loves to hide in the photographs. He always wears his Union Jack Flag outfit so he is easy to spot!@



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS MEXICO?



**CAN YOU FIND THE AREA OF OAXACA?
WHAT DO YOU NOTICE ABOUT THIS AREA?**



OAXACAN CULTURE

Oaxaca is known for its indigenous peoples, descendants of the Mixtec and Zapotec Indians. They live in villages with names like Zaachila, Tlacolula and Teotitlan del Valle. These remote towns dot the valleys and mountain-sides near Oaxaca City, and are nestled in the lowlands that border the lush Pacific Coast. Today, Oaxaca state has the largest percentage of indigenous Indians in the Western Hemisphere. They speak 52 dialects of eight distinct languages; if they speak Spanish, too, it is a second language to them. The famous archeological sites of Monte Alban and Mitla are reminders of the splendid legacies of the past. The richness of Oaxaca's cultural life today—its handcrafts, folklore, dance food and markets—reflects the enduring influence of the ancient peoples.

WHO ARE THE ZAPOTECAS?

- Indigenous people
- Nomadic
- Hunter-gatherers—frijoles, squash, maize and chili (10000–1900 BC)
- “People of the Clouds “– Why do you think they were called this?
- Worshipped many gods
- Sacrificed for the blessings of their gods
- Dancers
- Ball players—What game do you think they played?
- Artisans
- Craftsman
- Slaves



LET'S LOOK AT THE DIFFERENT PERIODS THAT COVER THE LIVES OF THE ZAPOTECAS...

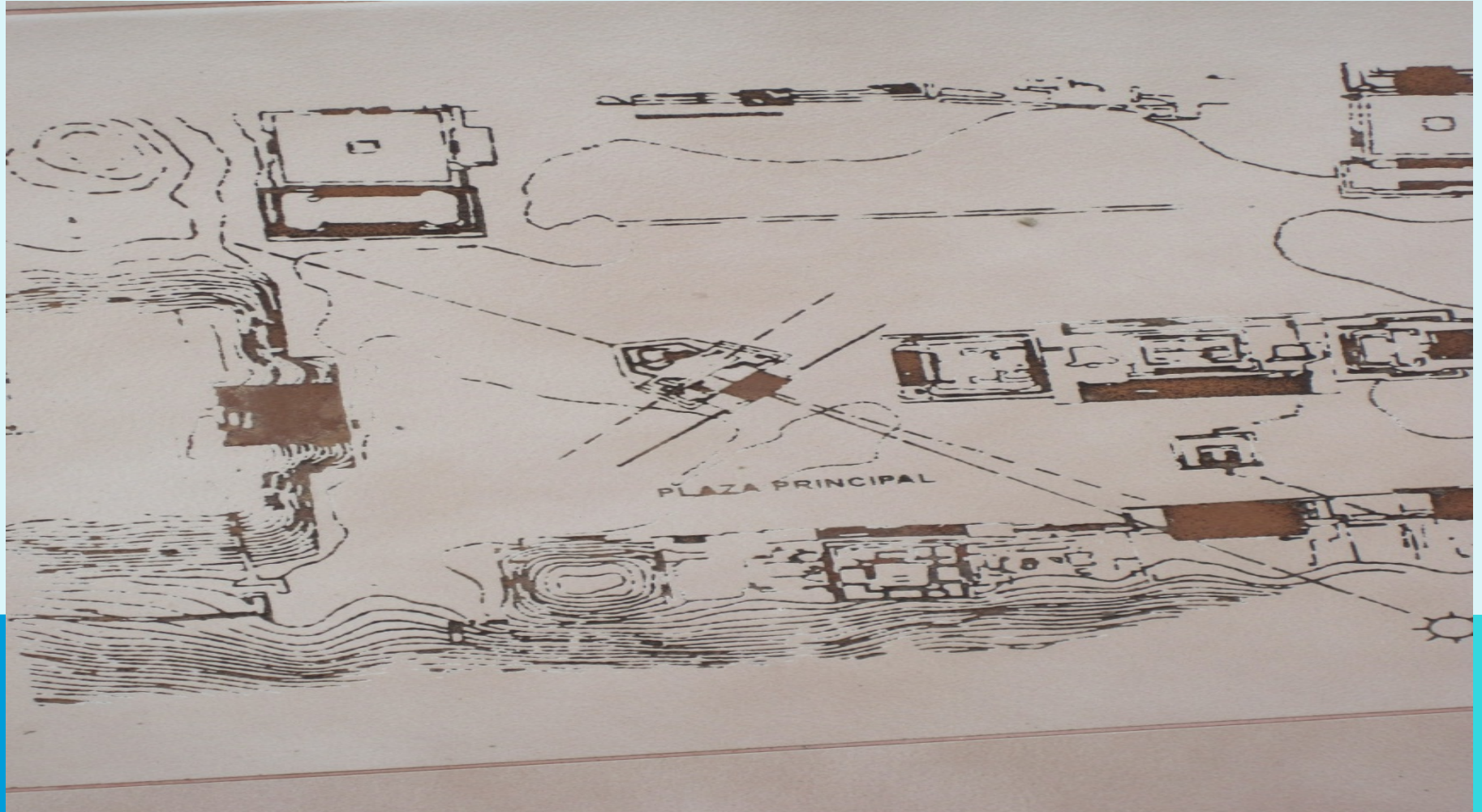
- **PRE-CLASSIC** (19000–500 BC)
- **MID-PRE-CLASSIC** (500–100 BC)
- **PROTO-CLASSIC** (100 BC–200 AD)
- **CLASSIC** (200–800 AD)
- **LATE-CLASSIC** (800 AD– onward)

****Use the prefixes to understand what each**

**THE RISE OF MONTE ALBAN—HOME IN THE CLOUDS
(ARTIST'S RENDERING, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY, MEXICO)**



OVERVIEW PLAN OF MONTE ALBAN



LET US LOOK AT MORE PICTURES OF MONTE ALBAN.



NOTICE THE COLUMNS.



ALL THESE STONES WERE CARVED BY HAND.



THE OBSERVATORY UNDER REPAIR



ONE OF THE TEMPLES



LOOK AT THIS VIEW!



JACK LOVED IT HERE! THIS IS A SEATING PART OF THE PLAZA.



AN ORIGINAL SCULPTURE – IS THIS WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE?



DANCERS – THEY USED THE GRAND PLAZA TO PERFORM.



SWIMMERS! ON A MOUNTAIN THAT HAS NO NATURAL WATER?



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME.... ZAPOTEC STYLE

[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=TXMN60NDKFC](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXMN60NDKFC)



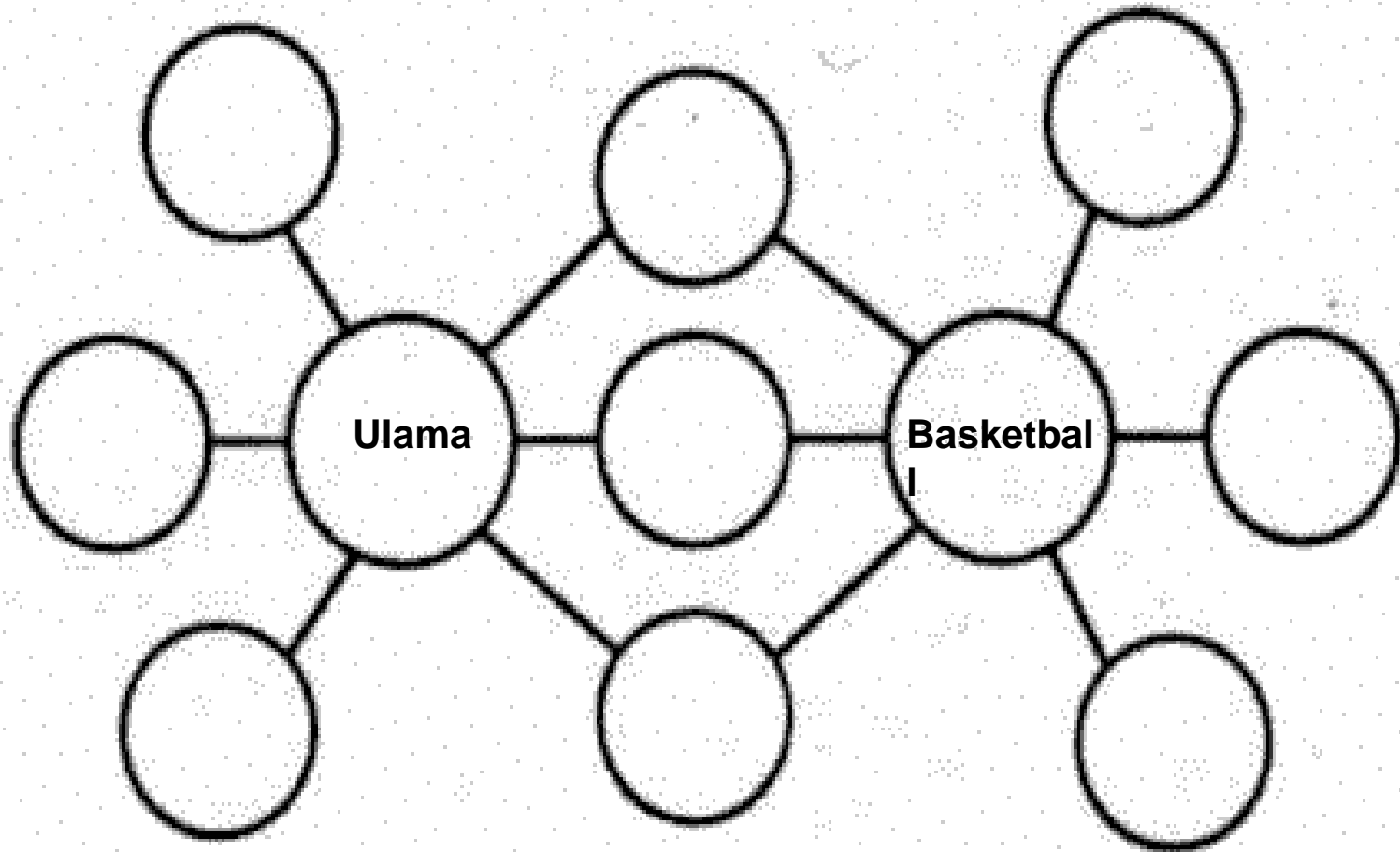
IT IS STILL PLAYED IN MEXICO TODAY BUT IT HAS NOW BEEN MODIFIED AND CALLED LACHI.



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCzhtTjzWvU&feature=youtube_gdata_playlist

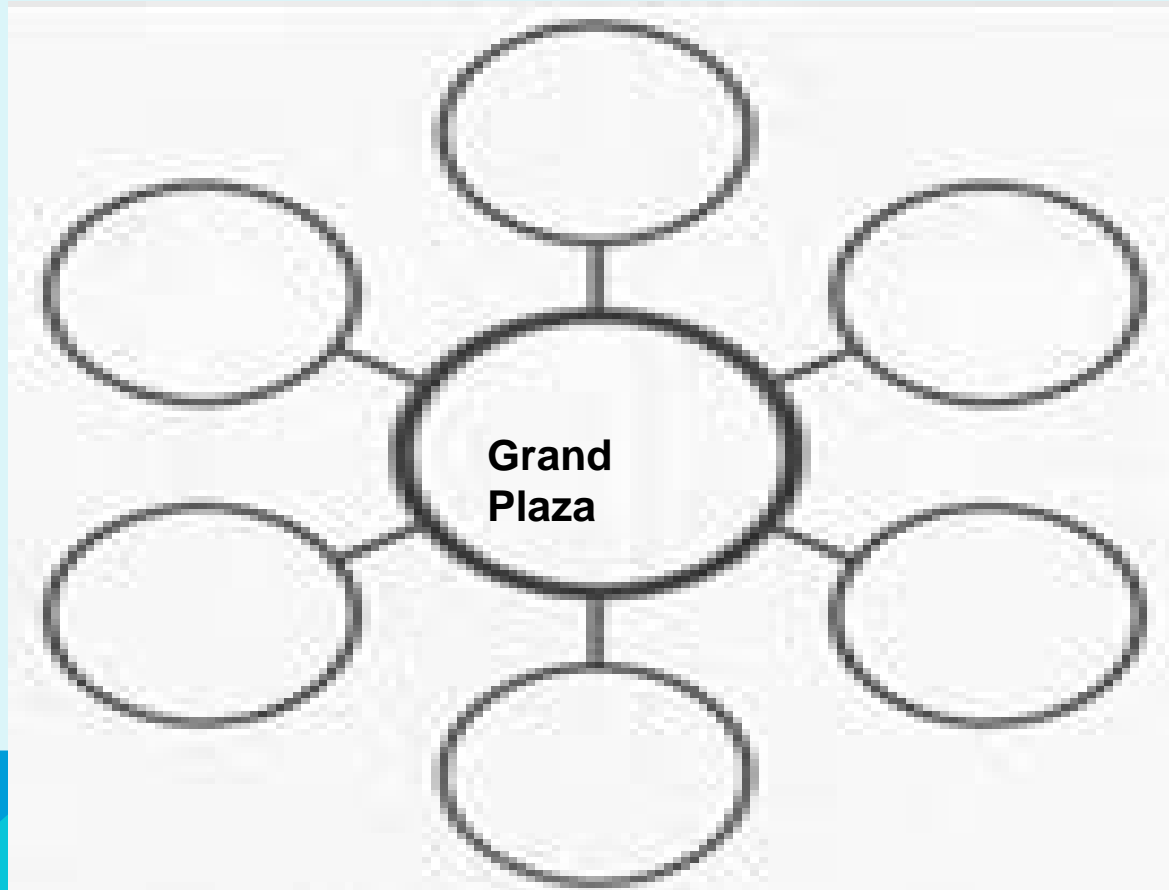
Keep in mind that the winner would be sacrificed to the Gods. Only the best and the strongest were chosen to appease Cocoi, Lord of Rain and Thunder.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST TO THE BASKETBALL OR SIMILAR GAMES OF TODAY.



THE GRAND PLAZA

How do you think the Zapotecs used this great square? Review slide 4 if you need a reminder...



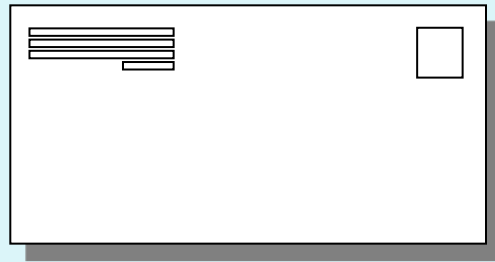
- Brainstorm in your cluster groups and complete a cluster web.
- Now watch the video on the next slide

THE GRAND PLAZA VIDEO

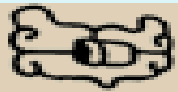


COMMUNICATION

How did the Zapotecs communicate?



NUMERALS AND HIEROGLYPHS



1 chilla
alligator



2 laa
lightning



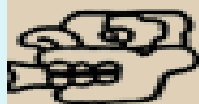
3 laala/guela
(?)/night



4 lachi
ballgame (?)



5 zee
bad omen



6 lana
ell of meat



7 china
deer



8 lapa
(?)



9 niça
water



10 tella
knot



11 loo
monkey



12 piya
soap plant



13 laa/quij
(?)/reed



14 lache
heart (?)



15 naa
cornfield



16 loo
eye



17 xoo
earthquake



18 lopa
dew



19 lape
drop (?)



20 loo
ruler, lord

COSMIC – CONSTELLATIONS – CALENDARS?

What do these three words have in common?

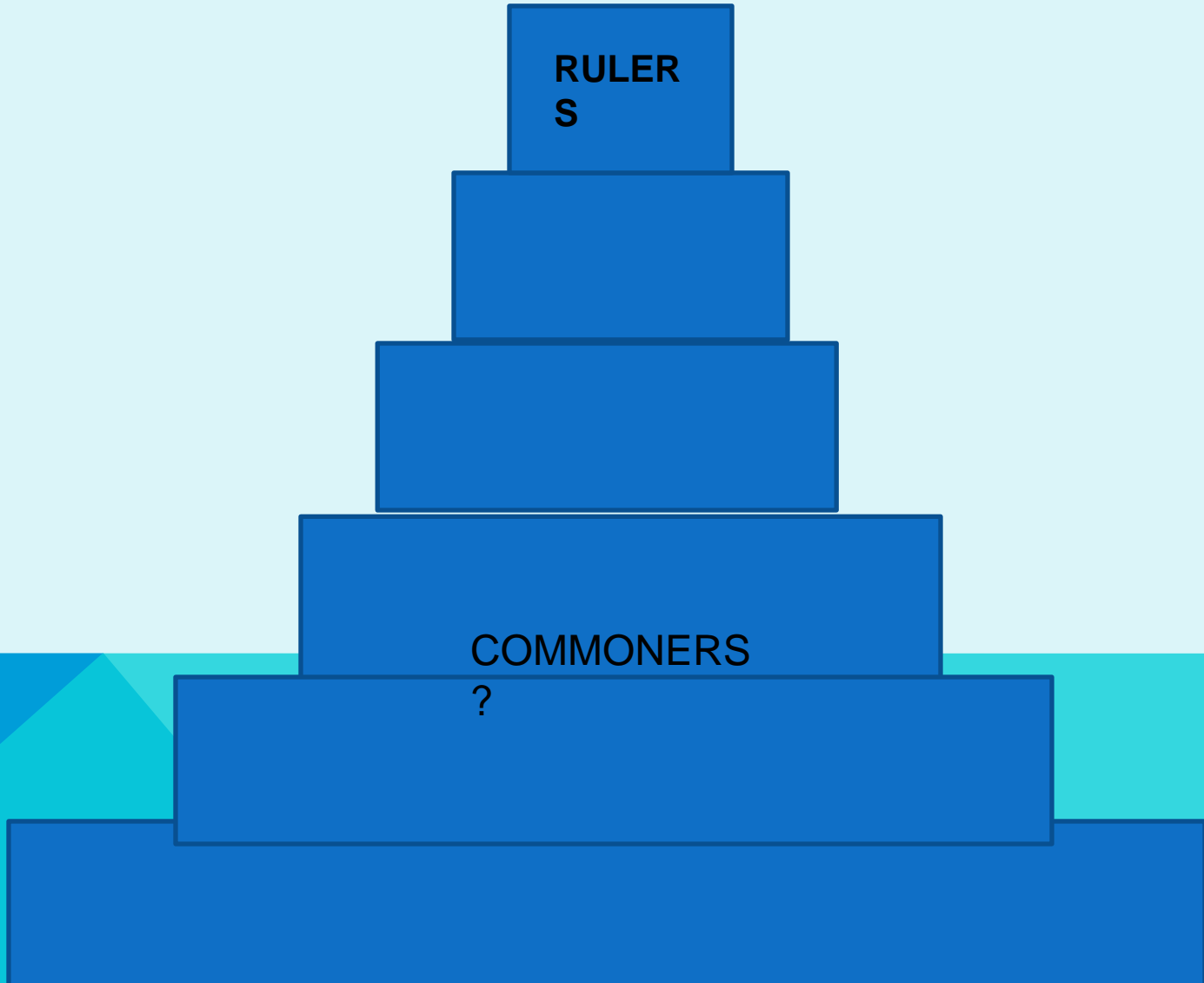
How did the Zapotecs keep time?

Stelae: An early form of calendar used by the Zapotecs.



WHO WAS THE BOSS?

What does the word hierarchy mean to you?



CEREMONIES OF DEATH! DOWN THE STEPS AND INTO THE TOMB.



VIDEO OF A TOMB BUILT FOR POOR ZAPOTECOS



CONTINUED...VIDEO – MANY POOR WERE BURIED TOGETHER



NOW IF YOU WERE RICH...

You would have a tomb to yourself and it would be adorned with artifacts like these..

Everyone wore a mask to go into the afterlife.

Maybe one of the bat god, Piquete Zinawho, who will carry you into the



WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU TAKE?

You would also have an urn for food or water and some of your precious possessions.



ZAPOTEC FOOD

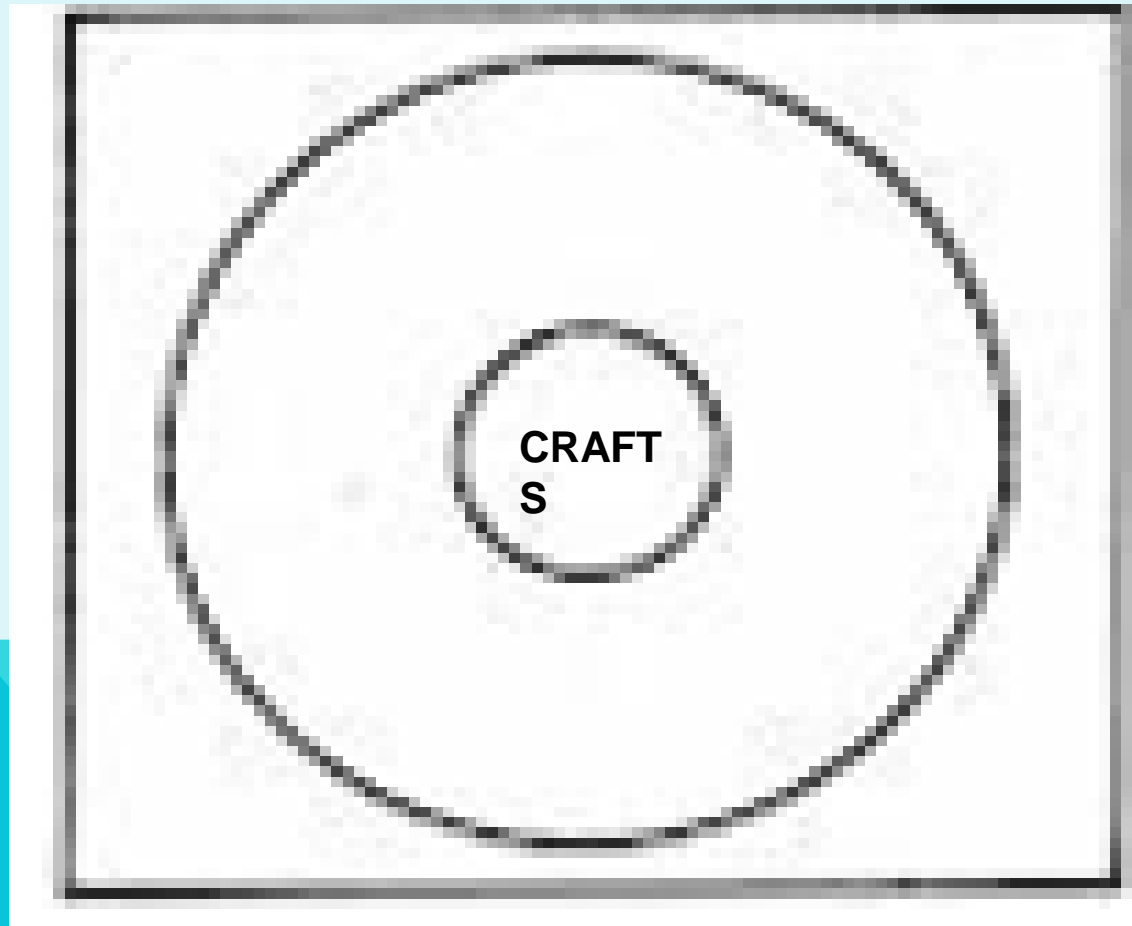
Watch the video to see how they make Pipian wasp
food: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4Jlla1lrnw>

They also eat toasted grasshoppers



ZAPOTEC ARTISANS WERE VERY CRAFTY.

What types of crafts do you think they worked on?



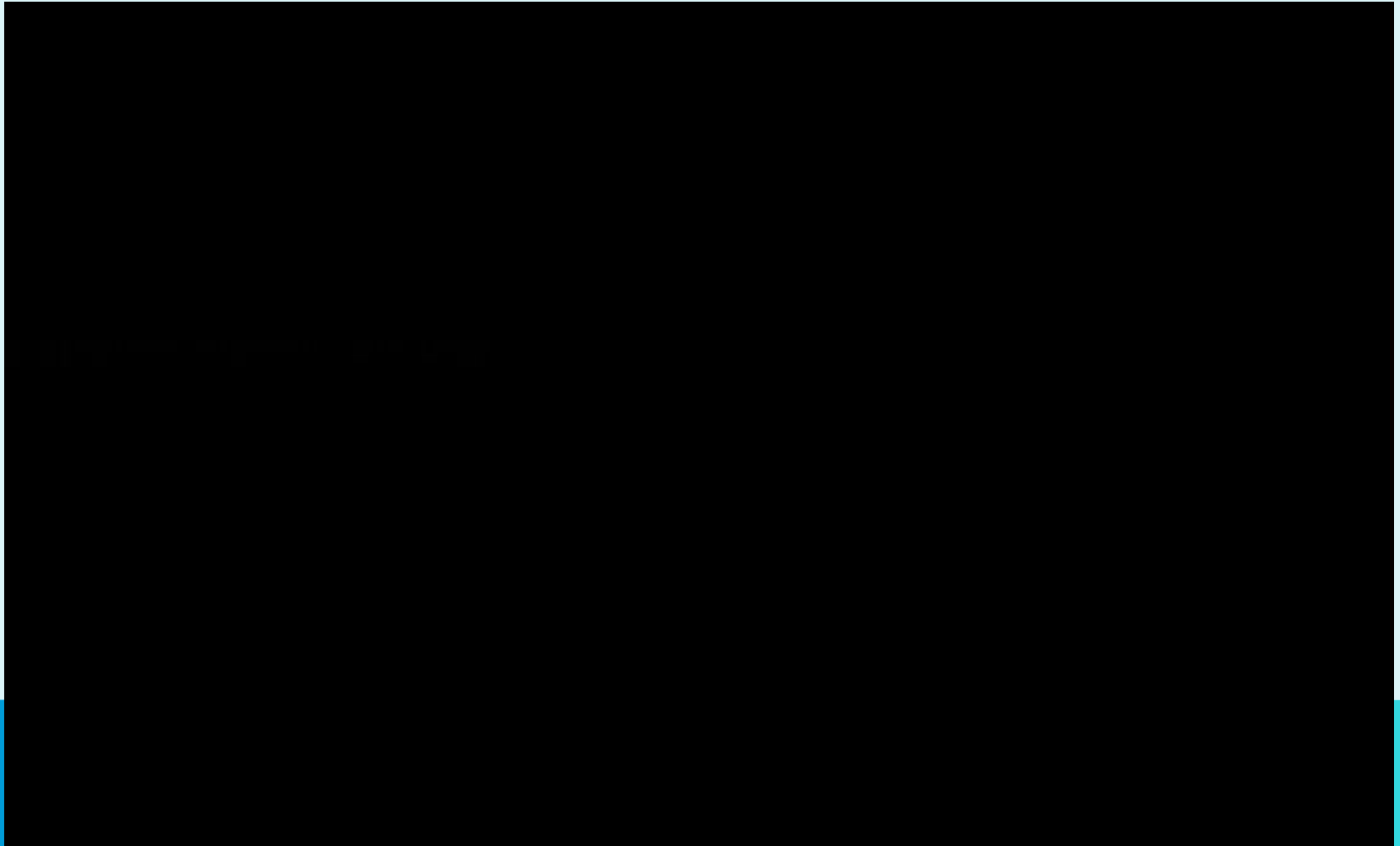
ZAPOTEC WEAVING TECHNIQUES



ZAPOTEC POTTERY



ZAPOTEC WOOD CARVING AND DECORATING



ZAPOTEC FEATHER DANCE VIDEO



GODS! GODS! AND EVEN MORE GODS!

The Zapotecs worshipped at least 13 main gods.
For example:

- Coqui Xee
 - Pitau Copichja
 - Pitau Bezelao
 - Pitau Cocijo
 - Pitau Xoo
- The prefix “Pitau” means great or good

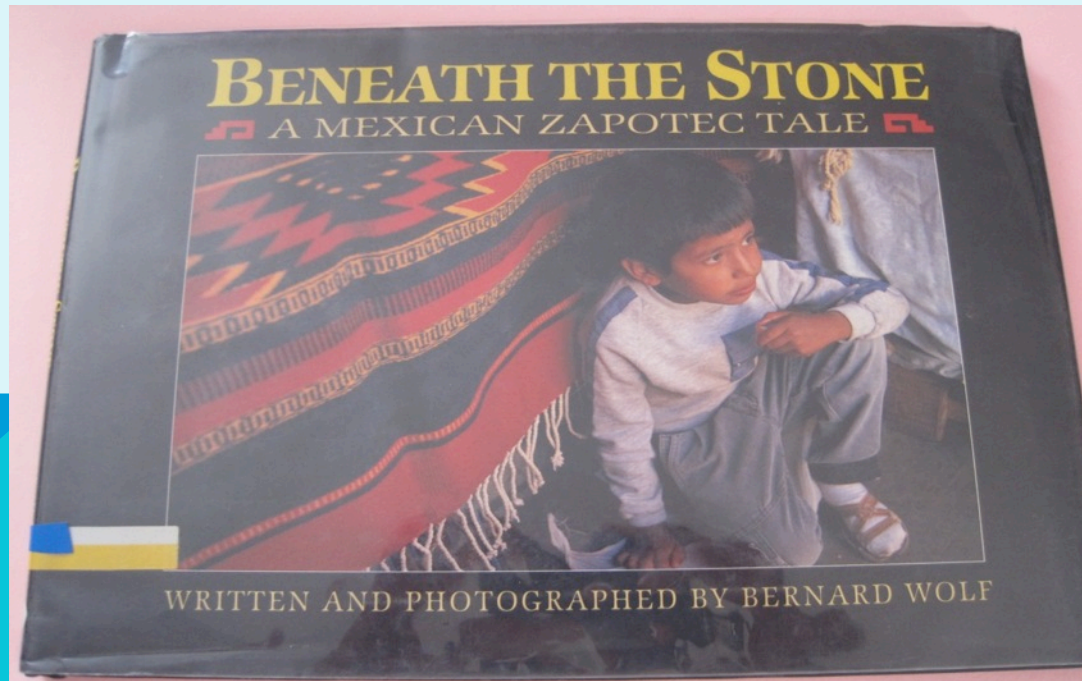


- After listening to the stories on the next slide you can research what each of these gods does. You can also try and make your own rug story.

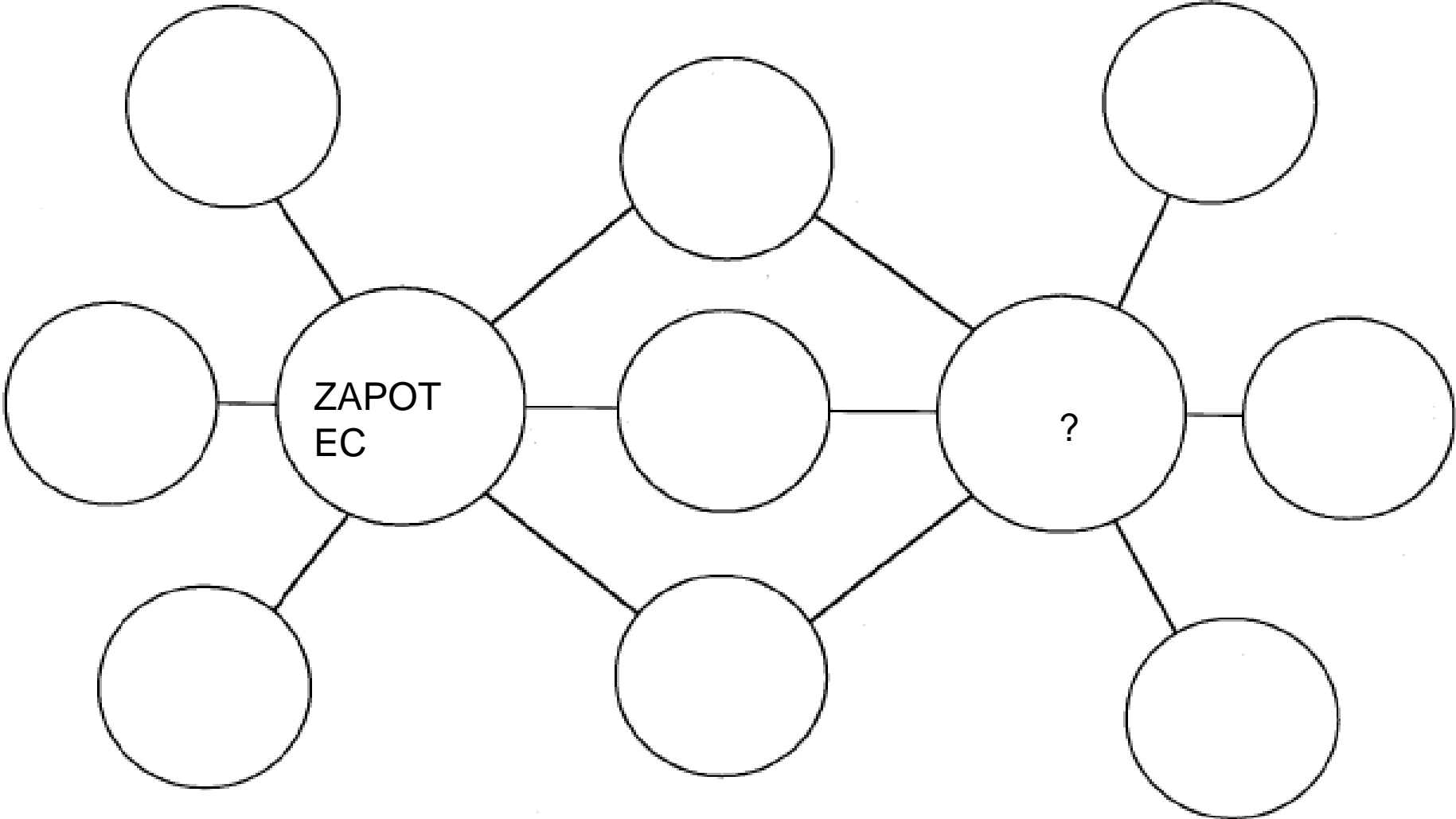
EVERYONE LOVES A GREAT STORY

Let's read some Zapotec myths and legends and see if we can recognize the cultural elements we have learned so far in this unit.

- Legend of the Bat God
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8sp-wBSc2bQ> Rug stories
- <http://kslinker.com/Pitao.pdf>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8sp-wBSc2bQ> Creation Stories



TIME TO COMPARE AND CONTRAST



WHO WANTS TO WRITE THEIR OWN LEGEND OR READER'S THEATER?

Reader's Theater



OR

Writing a legend



ZAPOTEC CULTURE BOX

Show each of the following photographs of my artifacts and have students hypothesize for what they could be used.

This activity can be shared as pre or post study of this fascinating group





















06/28/2012







HOPE YOU ENJOYED LEARNING ABOUT THE ZAPOTECOS.

I did, too.

