

ARTES
de
MÉXICO
en
UTAH



BORN FROM CORN

K-2 Grade Standard

Standard I: Students will recognize and describe how people within their community, state, and nation are both similar and different.

Objective 1:

I can examine and identify cultural differences within the community.

(B) Explain ways people respect and pass on their traditions and customs.

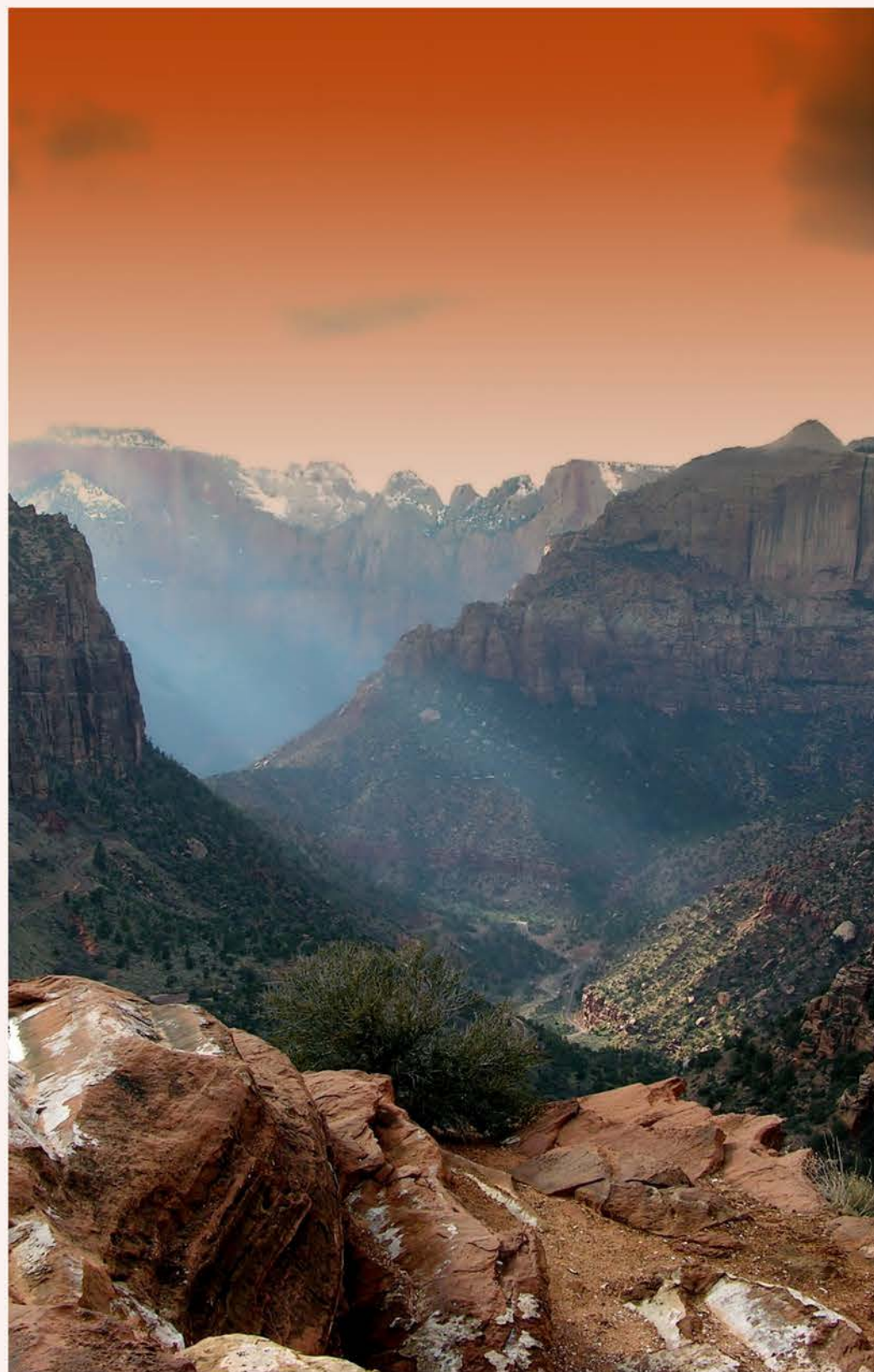
Objective 2:

I can recognize and describe the contributions of different cultural groups in Utah and the nation.

(B) Explain ways American Indians and immigrants have shaped both Utah's and America's culture. (names of places, food, customs, celebrations)



Introduction



The Born from Corn series seeks to increase cultural understanding and foster a deeper appreciation of the main agricultural crops, traditions, and indigenous knowledge. We aim to share the meaning of corn to the Indigenous peoples of the Americas, specifically the Maya, with our entire community. We acknowledge that this land which we now know as the state of Utah, is the traditional and ancestral homeland of the Ancestral Puebloans, the San Juan Southern Paiute, Dine (Navajo) Nation, Ute Mountain Ute-White Mesa Community, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Ute Tribe, Northwestern Band of Shoshone, Skull Valley Band of Goshutes, and the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation. We recognize and respect their relation with this land as the original people of this place. We acknowledge and amplify the true history of the Indigenous peoples of this continent and their resilience against colonizer efforts to eliminate Indigenous cultures, languages, traditions and beliefs.

Vocabulary

- **Indigeneity**

Indigenous means to be native or occur naturally in a particular place. Indigeneity is then applied to groups of people that lived in the Americas before the arrival of the Europeans.

>> **Watch the video** <<

- **Tradition**

The handing down of information, beliefs, or customs from one generation to another.



- **Identity**

Identity is who you are, the way you think about yourself and the way the world sees you. Think about the things that make you special and different than everyone else.

- **Cosmovision**

A cosmovision, or worldview, is the way we see the world and how nature, and everything around us, like animals, the universe, stars, air, and earth, are connected and related to us, humans.



- **Maya vs. Mayan**

The term "Mayan" is only used by scholars when referring to the languages spoken by the Maya. There are many Maya languages and many Maya peoples. The term "Maya" is used when referring to people, places, and culture, without distinction between singular or plural.

Example: "It was written in a Mayan language." "The Maya harvest corn."



Vocabulary

- **Community**

A place where people live, work, and play together. People in a community like similar things and usually live in the same area.

- **Mesoamerica**

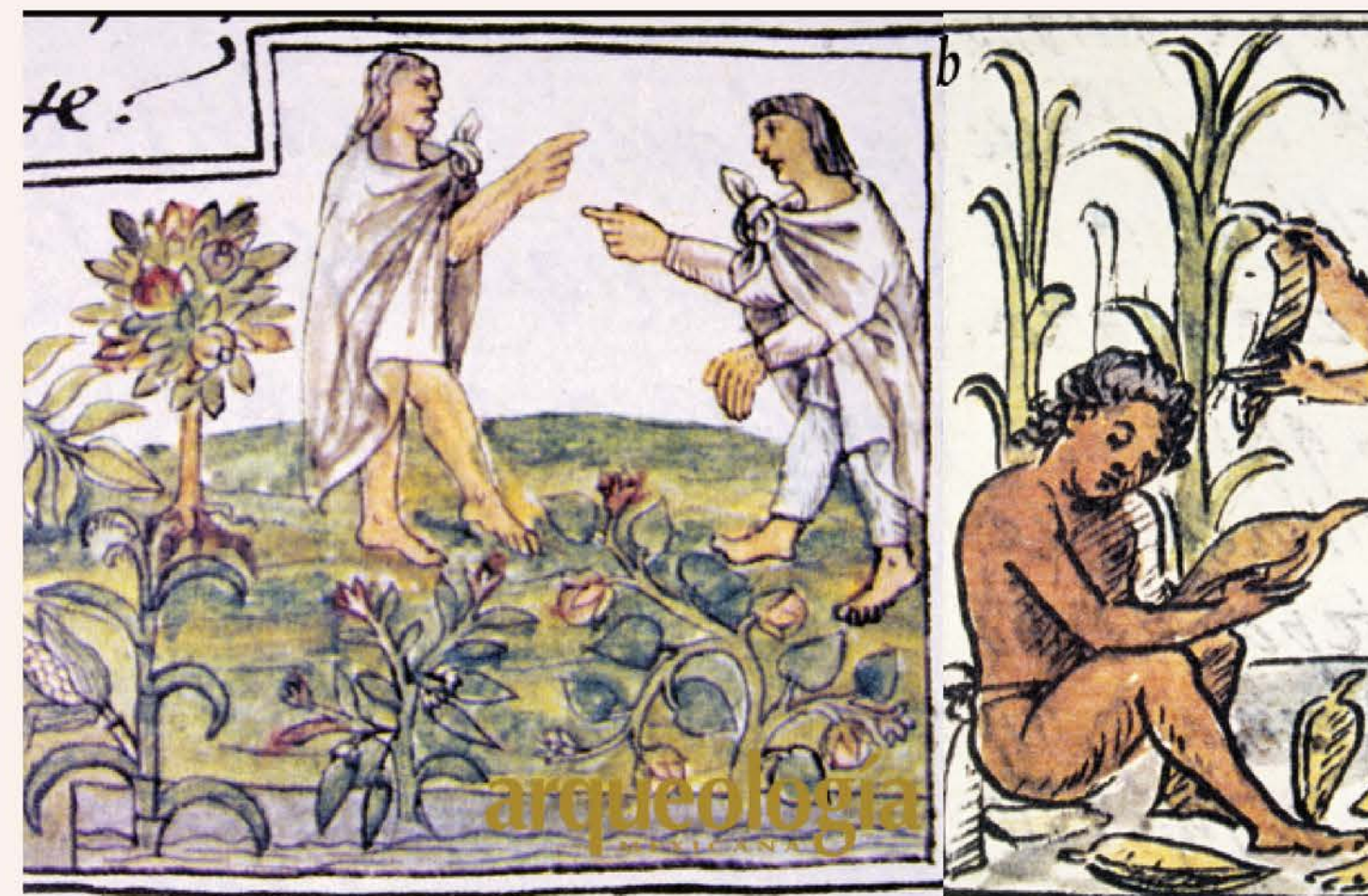
A geographical region sometimes also known as "Central America". This word is used when talking about peoples and cultures before the Spanish Colonizers. The countries in this area includes: **Northern Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Belize, and central to southern Mexico.**





● La Milpa

"The Milpa" is a field used to plant corn, along with beans and other crops. This word is used in Mexico and Central America.



Your teacher will give you an HWC chart



Heard

Think about the films, books and images you have seen with Indigenous people. What have you seen and heard? It is important to consider that not everything you've seen and heard is true.



Wonder

What are some questions you have about native and Indigenous people? Write questions that you may have during the lesson.



Connect

Leave this box empty we will fill this out at the end of class.

Indigenous People of the Americas

It is important to know that there are many Indigenous people in the American continent. Here are the indigenous nations of Mexico.



Tribal Nations of the U.S & Canada

And here are the Indigenous nations of the United States and Canada.

Do you recognize any of these names?



This map represents the original pre-contact homelands of the hundreds of tribal nations that existed across what is now Canada and the "lower 48" of the United States. Most of the names shown here are the indigenous autonyms that tribes use for themselves. In some cases where the original name was never recorded, other common names are used. Many tribes did not survive the invasion by Europeans, yet this map serves as a visual reminder of their memory. This is the first time for many of these tribes to ever have a place on a map that is dedicated to all of the Nations across this land. May it instill pride in Native people and teach the non-Native public about our history.

Corn is very important for the original peoples of the Americas



Can you find corn in these images?



Storytelling & Writing

Many Indigenous people make art.

The Maya wrote many of their stories on **long sheets of paper made by bark or leather (huun)**. They also had their own system of writing, these are called **Maya Hieroglyphs**.

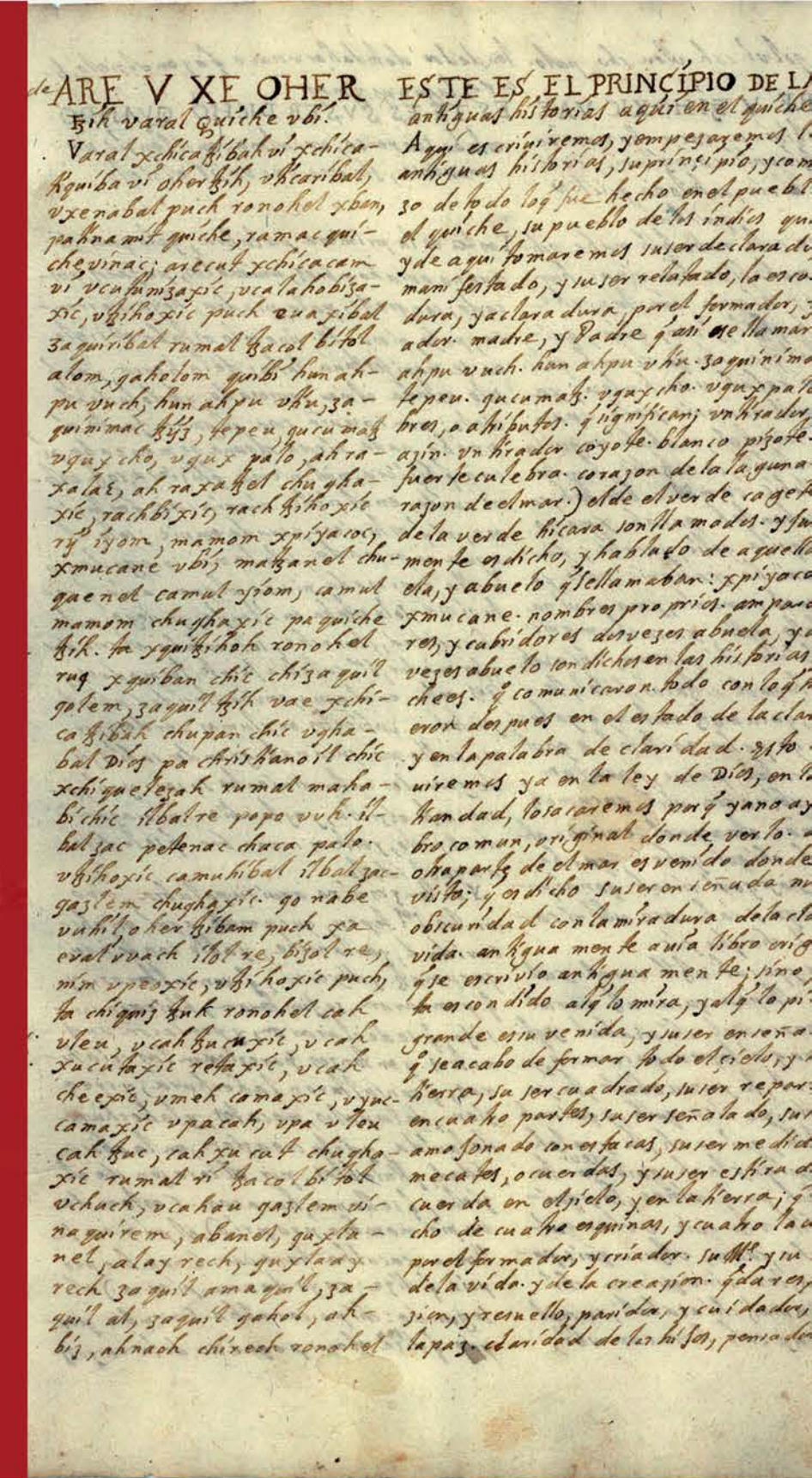
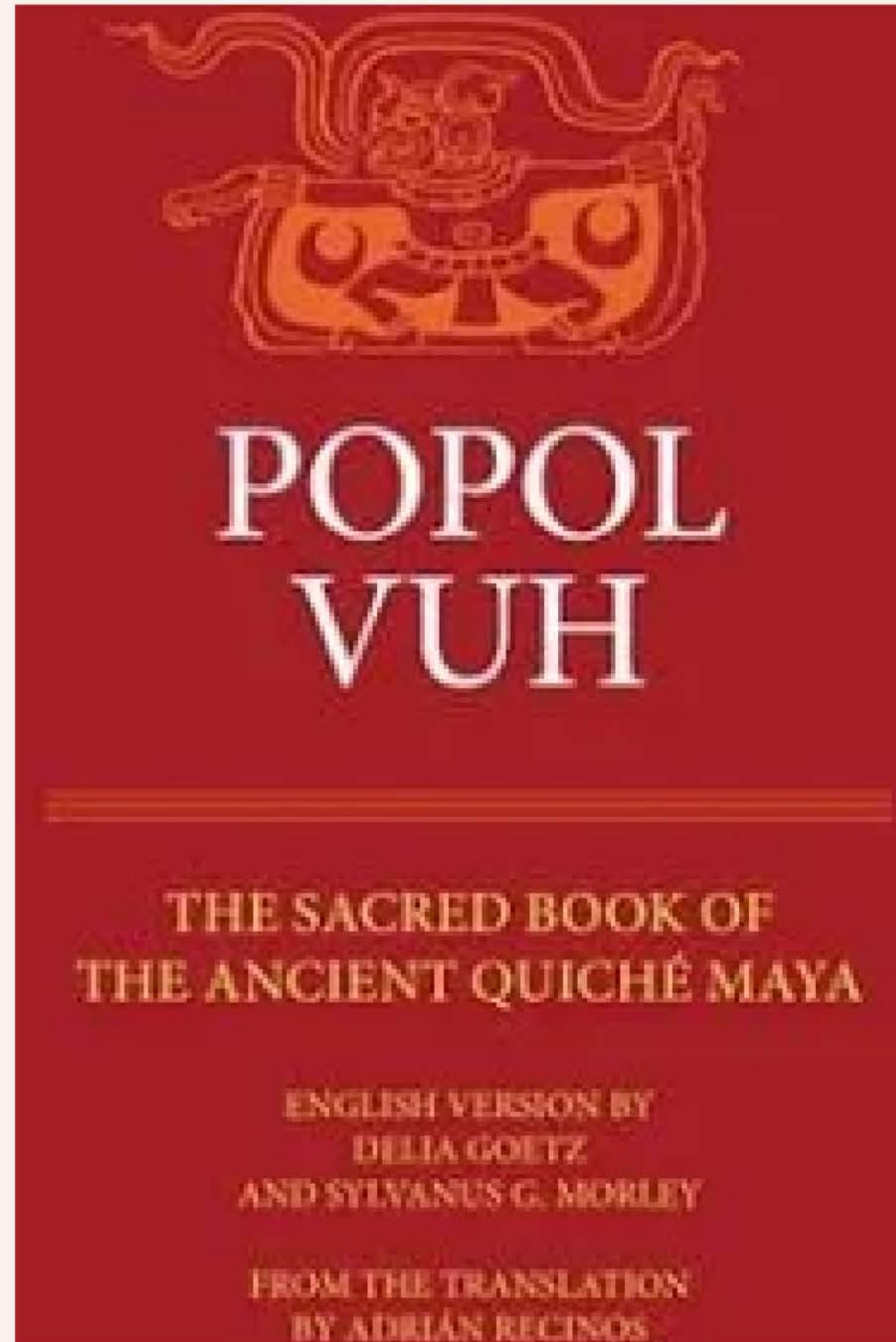


Text:

The Popol Vuh

One text written by Maya leaders is called the Popol Vuh.

The Popol Vuh was written in the K'iche language.





Born from Corn: The Maya

Many stories in the Popol Vuh mention corn but it is also part of the creation stories of many first peoples.

The Maya creation story in the Popol Vuh notes that humans were made out of corn.

Born from Corn: The Mexica

We may know these Indigenous people and their culture as the Aztecs, but they refer to themselves as Mexica. They have a similar story in which an ant showed the creator Quetzalcoatl where the corn was hidden.



The Hero Twins

The Popol Vuh also tells the story of two brothers, The Hero Twins, and their feats against the Lords of Xibalba (the underworld).

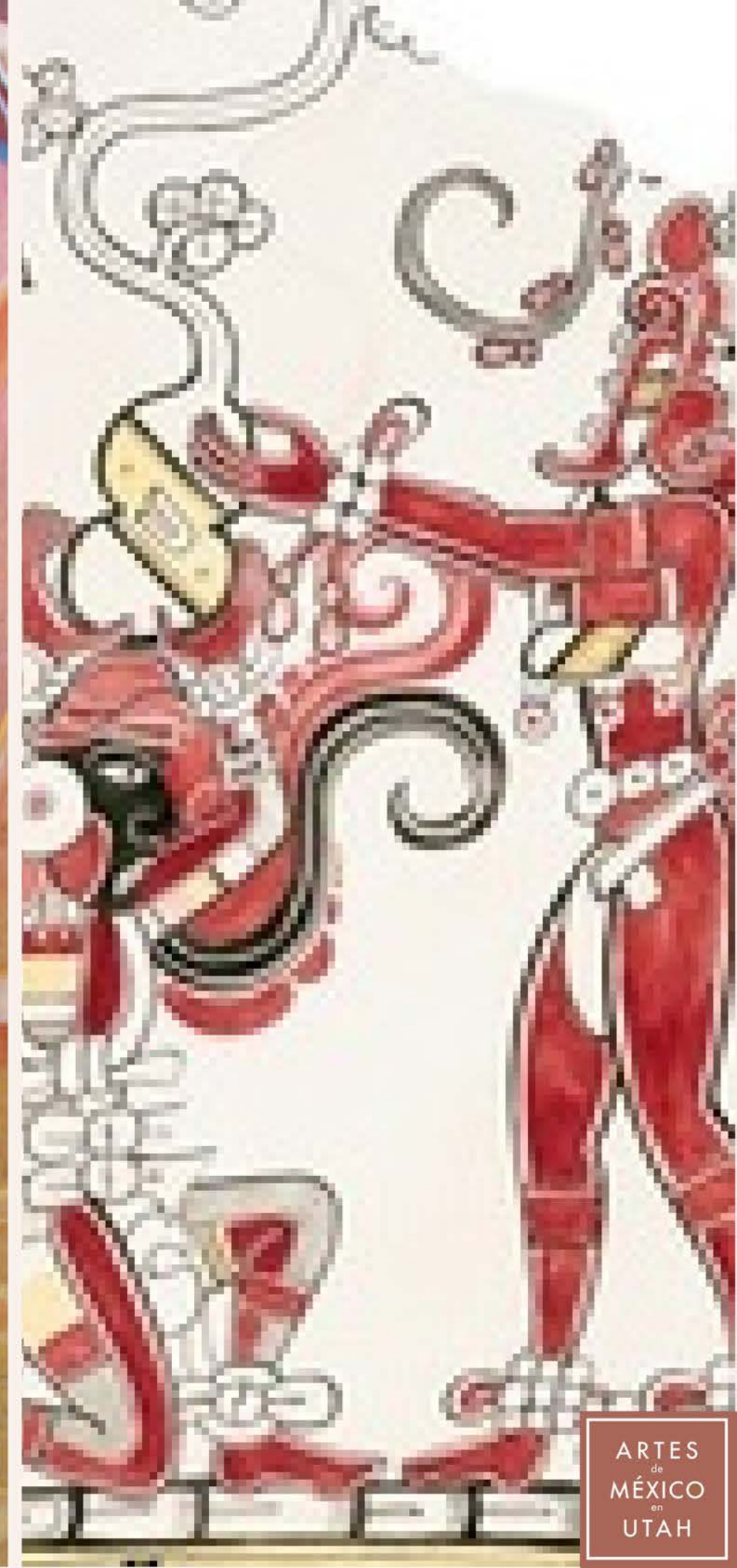
Where do you see corn?



Corn Maidens

Today, stories in Mesoamerica talk about four maidens who are keepers of corn, they are called Corn Maidens.

Stories of Corn Maidens are also in North America. The image on the left is a Hopi image.



Recall

What is the name of the book written in the K'iche Maya language?



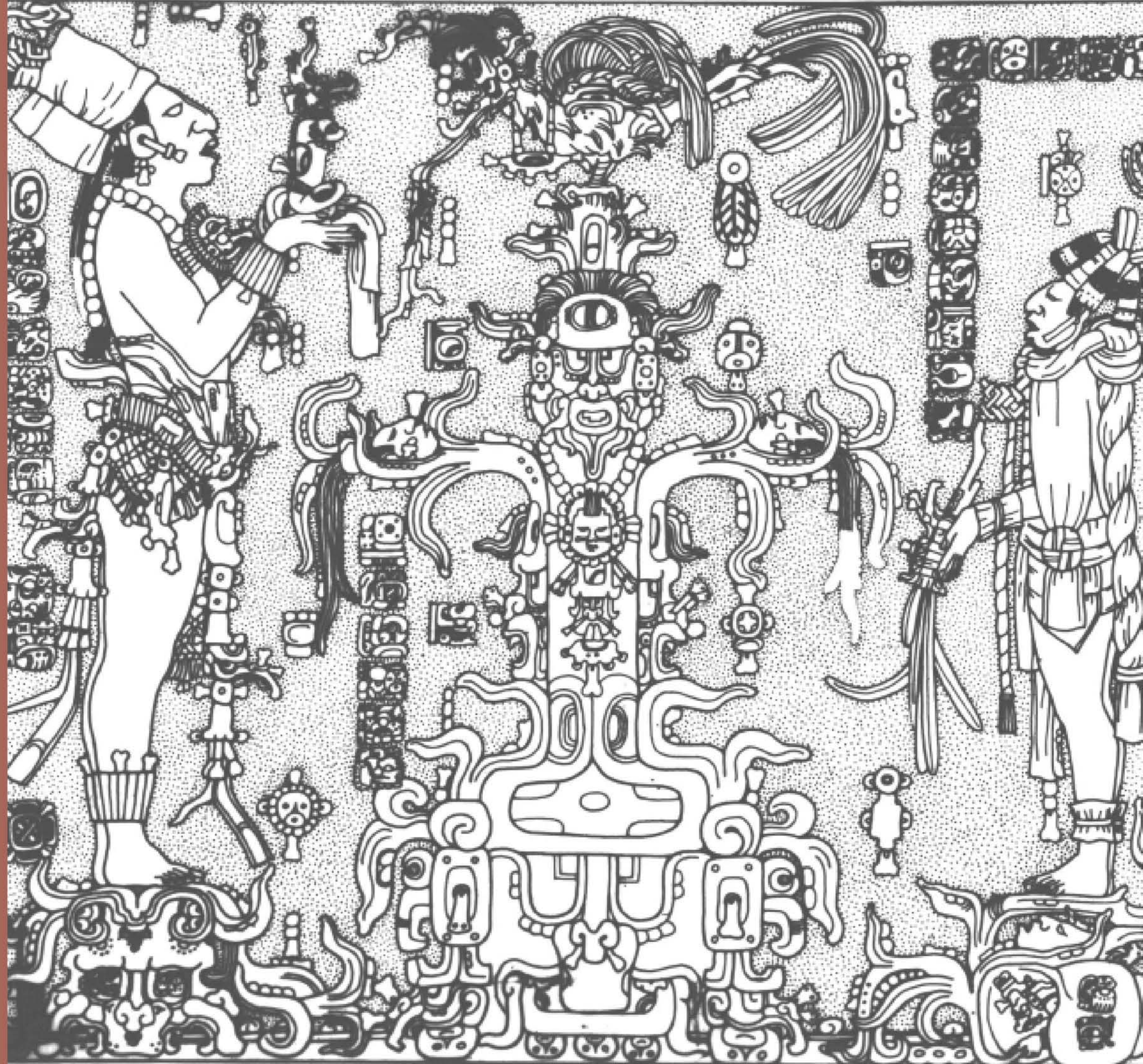
Cosmovision

Cosmovision is the way the Maya and other Mesoamerican cultures view the universe. For the Maya (and other Native American cultures) humans, nature and the universe are all connected. All things are needed to create a balance.

CORN & THE COSMOVISION

Corn is an important part of Indigenous people like the Maya because it is the main source of food, it provides life. At the same time it does not grow by itself, corn needs someone to plant it. This relationship is an example of cosmovision beliefs.

Can you find corn in the image?



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding several ears of yellow corn. The corn is bright yellow and appears to be freshly harvested. The hands are positioned around the corn, with fingers visible. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an outdoor setting like a field or farm.

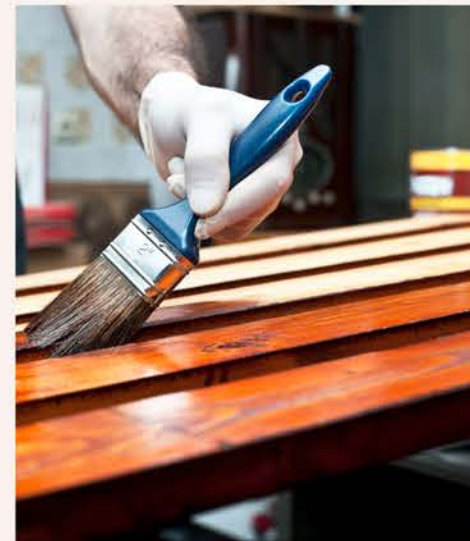
**How are you connected to
corn?**

**Share your memories of corn with a
partner**

Corn Foods

Some of you might connect to corn through food and family gatherings. Corn is a food that can be used in many recipes including candy!





Corn in our lives

Corn is also used in everyday materials such as: wax paper, matches, cosmetics, oils, gas, gypsum drywall, and varnish.



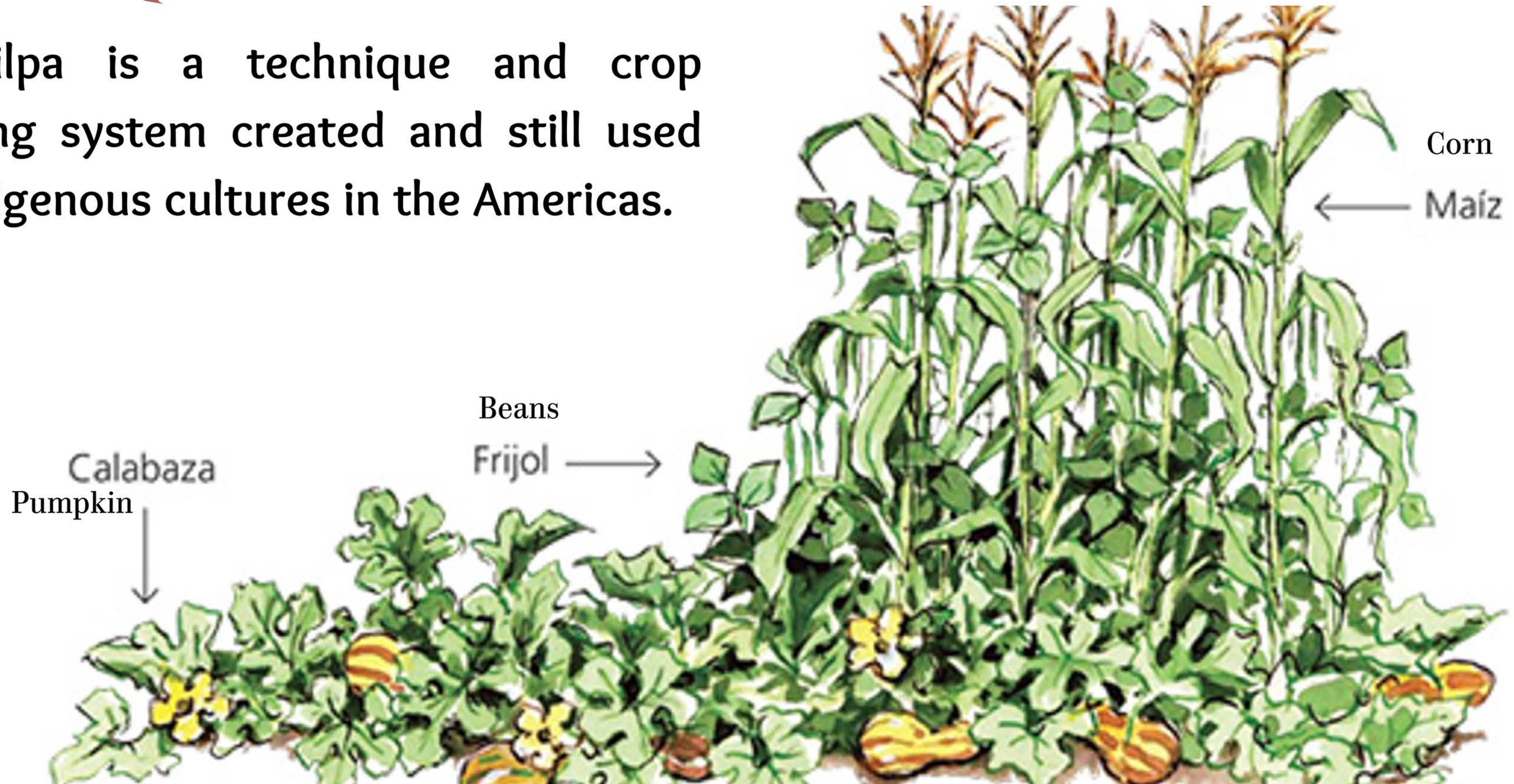
Where does corn come from?

Corn is an Indigenous crop that has been cared by indigenous peoples for time immemorial and spread throughout the entire continent through trade.

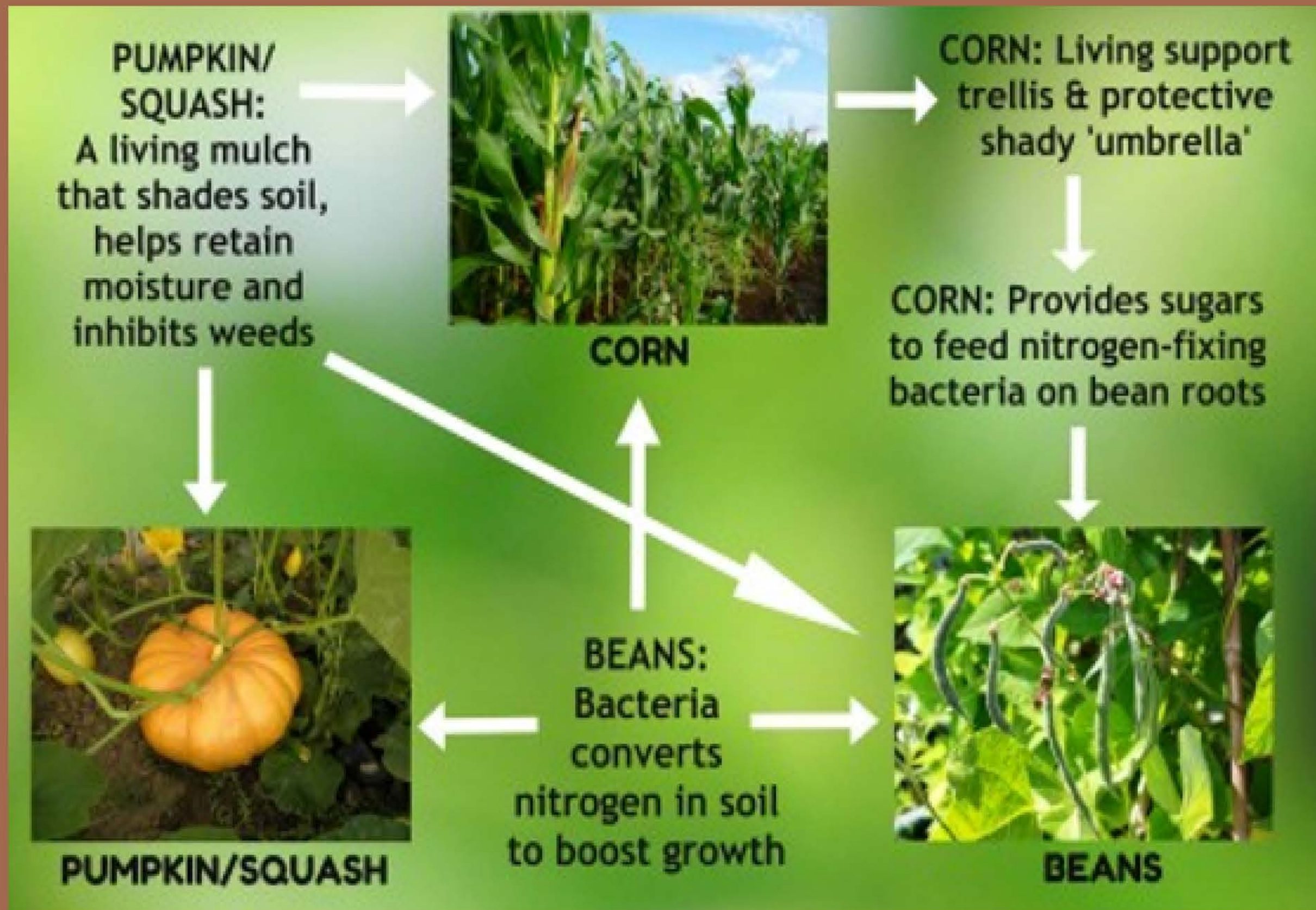
Using scientific research we can say that it has been around for at least 9000 years.

La Milpa

La Milpa is a technique and crop growing system created and still used by Indigenous cultures in the Americas.



Milpa: Everything is Connected



The Three Sisters

The Northern Native American people of the United States, known as the Haudenosaunee, have a legend that represents la milpa.

Some people know this legend as "The Three Sisters".

The full story is in the Teacher Resource Packet.





Textiles

You can find symbols and images of corn in the huipiles (dresses) and textiles of indigenous people today. On the left we see Chepita working on a huipil.



IXIM
Maíz.

Temples

We also see images of corn in the temples in Mesoamerica. On the right we see the seventh century east interior wall mural of the red temple.



Nixtamalization

Indigenous people have a process for preparing corn, that they have used for thousands of years. This process is called **Nixtamalization** and it helps humans open the corn shell so that they can digest corn and absorb the proper nutrients for our bodies.



Nixtamalization



Indigenous People Today

Indigenous people are very much alive today and share their knowledge about the land with our community here in Utah.



Story Time

Your teacher will now share some Indigenous stories found in the Teacher Resource Packet.

A photograph of a cornfield at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and purple. The corn plants are in the foreground and middle ground, with some leaves showing signs of being harvested. A white rectangular text box is centered over the image.

Question:

**How do the Maya and other
Indigenous groups share their
traditions?**

Question:

**What are some things
created by the Maya and
other indigenous people?**

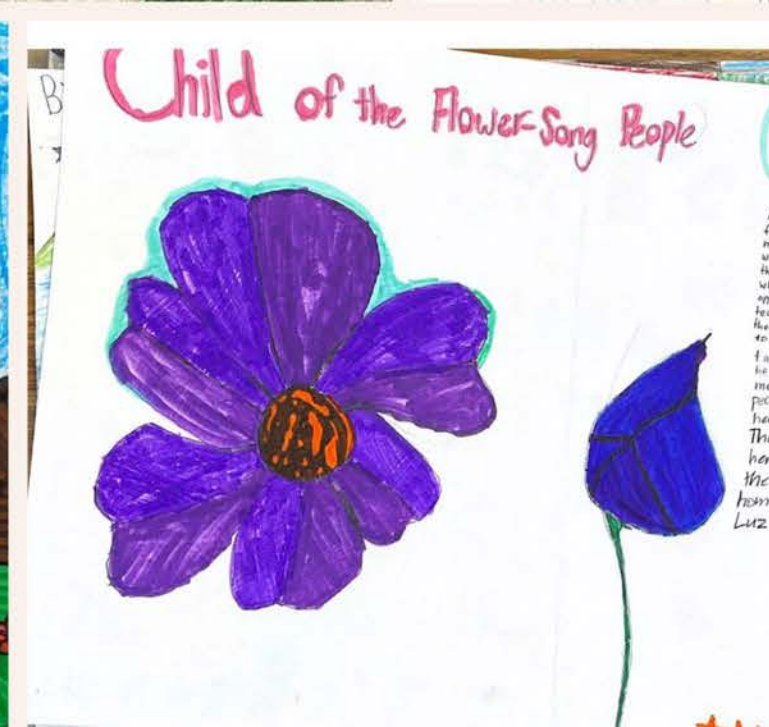
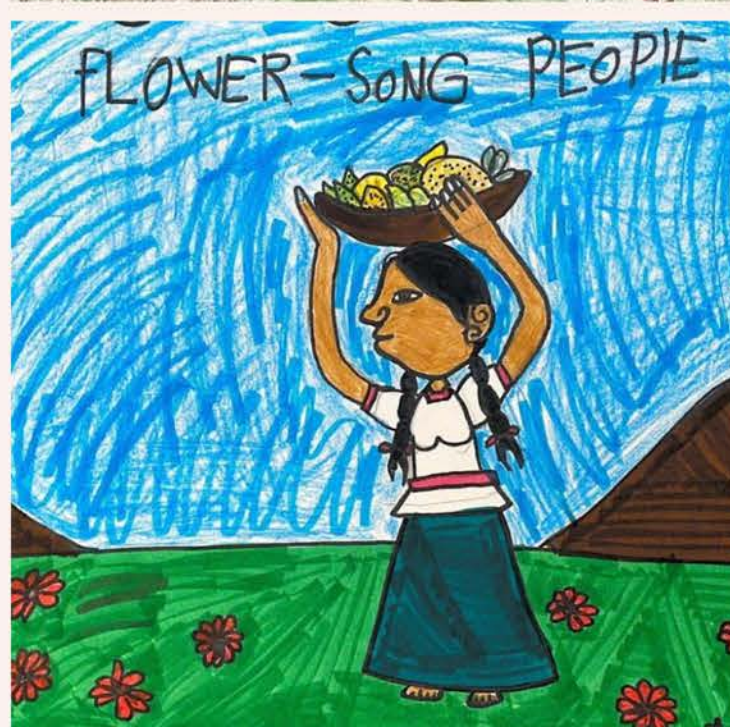
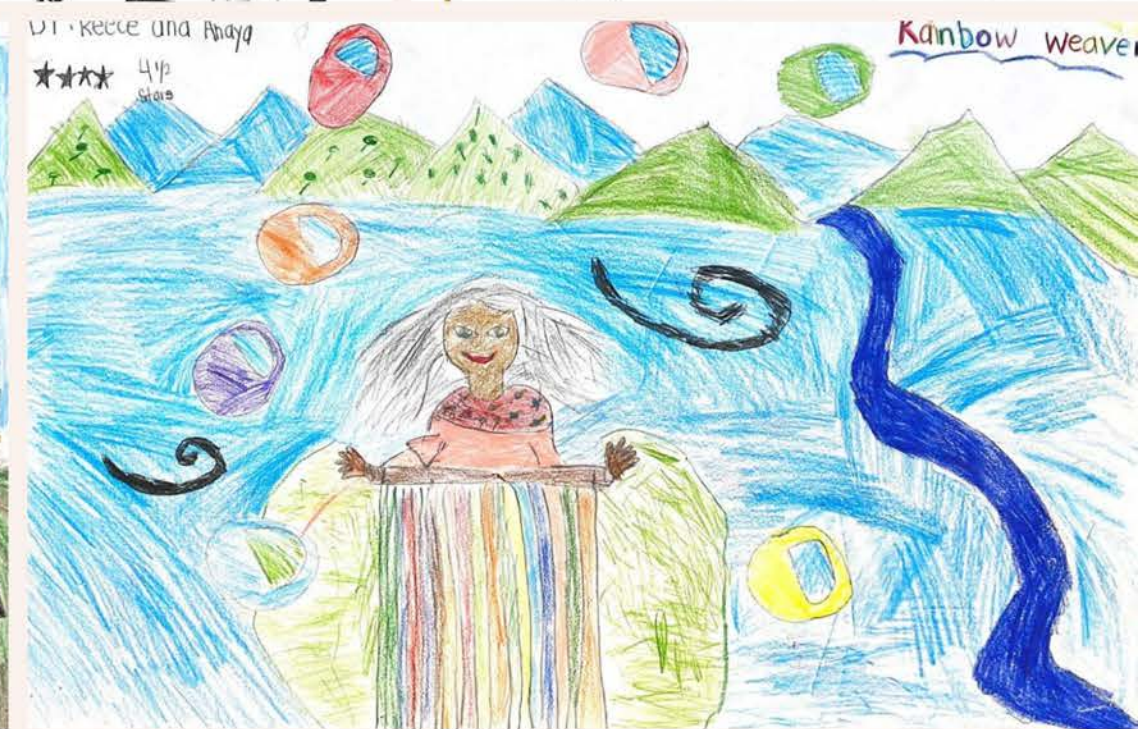
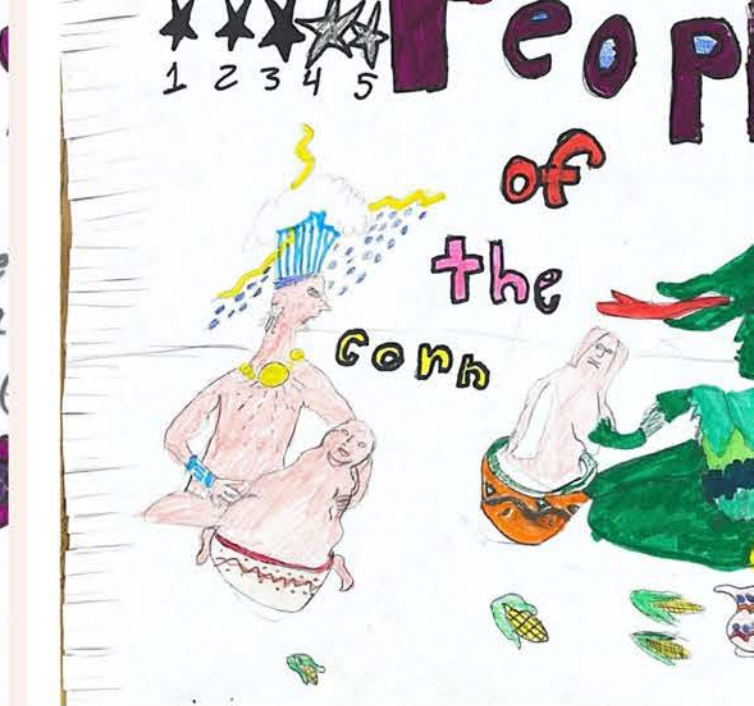
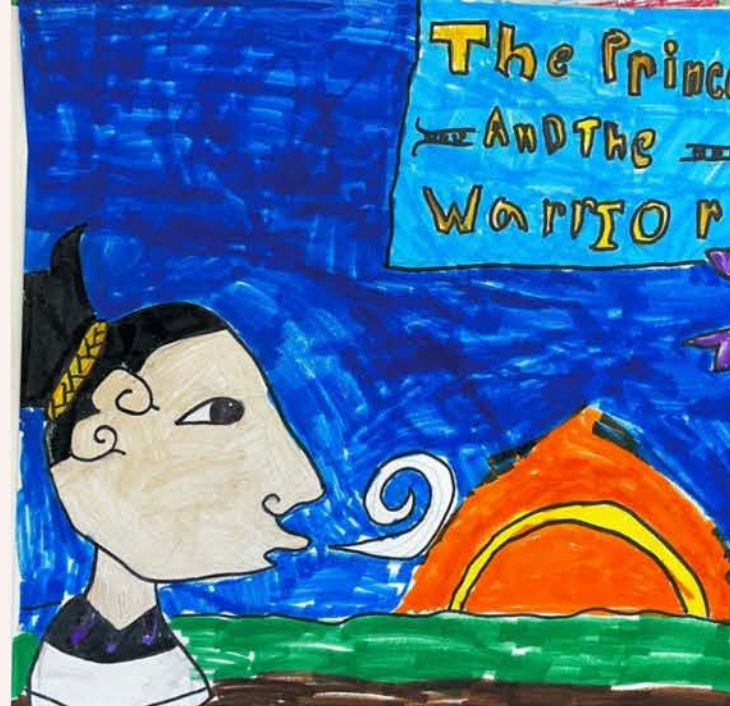


Connect

Share how the stories connect and how the story connects to your life.

Activity

Draw a picture of one of the stories you heard today.



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A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

