Sample Scholarly Journal Article

Sacred Sustenance: Maize, Storytelling, and a Maya Sense of Place
Leah Alexandra Huff

Abstract
A sense of place is key to identity, and for Maya agriculturalists of Guatemala, maize is the central cultural object that represents a Maya connection to the land. Stories are ideal tools for communicating a shared identity, and should be considered indispensable to ethnographers who wish to understand an indigenous sense of place. This study explores the subject of maize through oral storytelling traditions in order to answer the question of why maize is considered sacred to Maya peoples, how it is representative of a Maya sense of place, and to illustrate the value of stories and images in ethnographic literature.

Keywords: Maia, storytelling, sense of place, ethnography

Introduction
Feld and Basso (1996) is integral to understanding human agency. Lamentably, many ethnographers ignore the role ethnographers play in understanding, cultural production, and as carriers of knowledge. However, cultural production is a process that shapes and is shaped by stories. Stories serve as the foundation for shared identity, and hold the ability to elude sense of place and to transmit cultural understandings, both within and across cultural boundaries. Stories are exceptionally useful in building an understanding of a Maya sense of place, particularly with regard to the importance of maize in the lives and cultures of the Maya peoples.

Sample Scholarly Website

Peopling the past: New perspectives on the ancient Maya
Cynthia Robin*
Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University

Finding Out About the People
An example of the new multidisciplinary work in Maya archaeology comes from the Early Copán Acropolis Project, directed by Robert Sharer. Excavations in the civic-ceremonial heart of this ancient city in Honduras located the tomb of a male considered to be the god Mo'. Throughout world history—and Copán is no different—local deities have been honored as protectors of their home. In the tropical rainforest, the Ozayagodz God and the Mo' were the local deities who provided protection and well-being for those who lived within the Copán region.