

Sample Scholarly Journal Article

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

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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 storytelling in ethnographic literature.

Keywords: *Maya, storytelling, sense of place, ethnography*

Introduction

Summary of article reveals purpose & author's research methods

Feld and Basso (1996) is integral to understanding man group. Lamentably, many ethnographers ignore engaged in ethnographic work, referred to here as rily fortunate position as they are already intimately of geographic concepts: place. However, cultural to stories. Stories serve as the foundation for shared identity, and hold the ability to elucidate 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.

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Bibliography at end of article shows that the author did her research

Maize, Storytelling, and a Maya Sense of Place

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Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America

Peopling the past: New perspectives on the ancient Maya

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References show where the author got her information & support her conclusions

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 dynastic founder, 'Mo'. Throughout world history—and Copán is no

Sample research methods

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