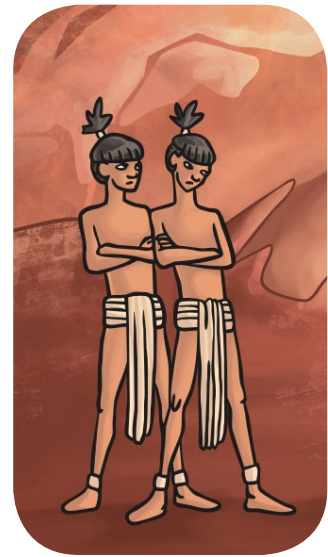


The Hero Twins

The story of the Hero Twins is one of the main Maya myths.

The First Hero Twins

The story begins with One Hunahpu and Seven Hunahpu. These two boys loved to play ball games and were very good at it. However, when they played, they caused a lot of noise. This angered the Lords of Death who were the gods of the underworld. So the Lords of Death invited the boys to the underworld and made them take part in a variety of tests. Sadly, the boys failed one of the tests and so the gods killed them.



The Second Hero Twins

A Mayan princess sat by the head of One Hunahpu after he had been killed and then discovered that she was pregnant. She gave birth to twin boys whose names were Hunahpu and Xbalanque. Like their father and uncle, the twins were also good ballplayers. They were also very loud. Once again, the Lords of Death invited them to the underworld.

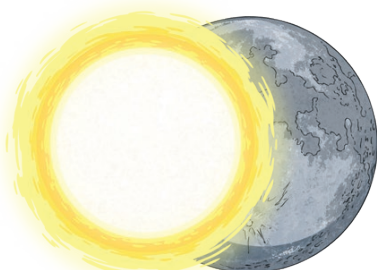
Visiting the Underground

The Hero Twins had learnt about their father's mistakes and did not fall for any of the god's tricks. They passed each test that they were given. The gods even challenged them to a game of ball but the twins knew that the gods would continue to try to trick them.

Victory

The boys beat the Lords of Death who then ordered the boys to jump into an oven. The boys agreed because they had a plan. Their ashes were thrown into the river and the boys came back to life as catfish. Eventually, they even returned to being boys again. Now however, they had many powers of the gods. They could kill things and make them come back from the dead. Their best trick of all was to kill one of the Lords of Death but not bring him back to life. The

other Lords of Death realised that the twins had won and left them alone.



Mayans believe that the gods of heaven were so pleased with the twins that they brought them to live in the sky with them. One was turned into the Moon and the other into the Sun.

Questions

1. What were the names of the first Hero Twins? **Tick one.**

- ☐ Hunahpu and Xbalanque
- ☐ One Hunahpu and Seven Hunahpu
- ☐ Seven Hunahpu and Eight Hunahpu
- ☐ Xbalanque and One Hunahpu

2. What angered the Lords of Death? **Tick one.**

- ☐ noise
- ☐ crowds
- ☐ people
- ☐ silence

3. Why did the gods kill the first Hero Twins?

4. **Find** and **copy** a word that means the same as **errors**.

5. Explain one way in which the second Hero Twins were like their father and uncle and one way in which they were different.

6. Where were Hunahpu and Xbalanque's ashes thrown? **Tick one.**

- ☐ in the underworld
- ☐ in the oven
- ☐ in the river
- ☐ in the sky

7. Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story.
One has been done for you.

- ☐ Hunahpu and Xbalanque kill a Lord of Death
- ☐ A Mayan princess discovers she is pregnant.
- ☒ **1** One Hunahpu and Seven Hunahpu play a loud game of ball.
- ☐ One Hunahpu and Seven Hunahpu fail the gods' tests.
- ☐ Hunahpu and Xbalanque jump into an oven.

Answers

1. What were the names of the first Hero Twins? **Tick one.**

- ☐ Hunahpu and Xbalanque
- ☒ **One Hunahpu and Seven Hunahpu**
- ☐ Seven Hunahpu and Eight Hunahpu
- ☐ Xbalanque and One Hunahpu

2. What angered the Lords of Death? **Tick one.**

- ☒ **noise**
- ☐ crowds
- ☐ people
- ☐ silence

3. Why did the gods kill the first Hero Twins?

The gods killed the first Hero Twins because they failed their tests.

4. **Find and copy** a word that means the same as **errors**.

mistakes

5. Explain one way in which the second Hero Twins were like their father and uncle and one way in which they were different.

Pupil's own response, such as: One way in which the second Hero Twins were like their father and uncle is that they were good ballplayers and made a lot of noise. A way in which they are different is that the second Hero Twins learnt from their father and uncle's mistakes and so didn't fail the gods' tests.

6. Where were Hunahpu and Xbalanque's ashes thrown? **Tick one.**

- ☐ in the underworld
- ☐ in the oven
- ☒ **in the river**
- ☐ in the sky

7. Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story.
One has been done for you.

- ☐ 5 Hunahpu and Xbalanque kill a Lord of Death
- ☐ 3 A Mayan princess discovers she is pregnant.
- ☐ 1 One Hunahpu and Seven Hunahpu play a loud game of ball.
- ☐ 2 One Hunahpu and Seven Hunahpu fail the gods' tests.
- ☐ 4 Hunahpu and Xbalanque jump into an oven.