Maya Creation Story

twinkl
www.twinkl.co.uk

Before the world had a true form, there were two Gods. These Gods were Tepeu, the Maker and Gucumatz, the Feathered Spirit. While the world around them was dark, the two Gods glittered with brilliant blue and green feathers. They came together to create the world.

twinkl www.twinkl.co.uk

Whatever they thought came into being. When they thought "Earth", land formed in the darkness. They thought of mountains and valleys, pine trees and water and sky. All of these things appeared the instant they thought them, and thus the Earth was formed.

twinkl www.twinkl.co.uk

Tepeu and Gucumatz decided that they needed beings there to look after their vast creation, and to praise their names as the creators. So they created deer and birds and panthers and serpents, all the creatures that roam the Earth today. "Now praise us! Say our names!" commanded the creators.

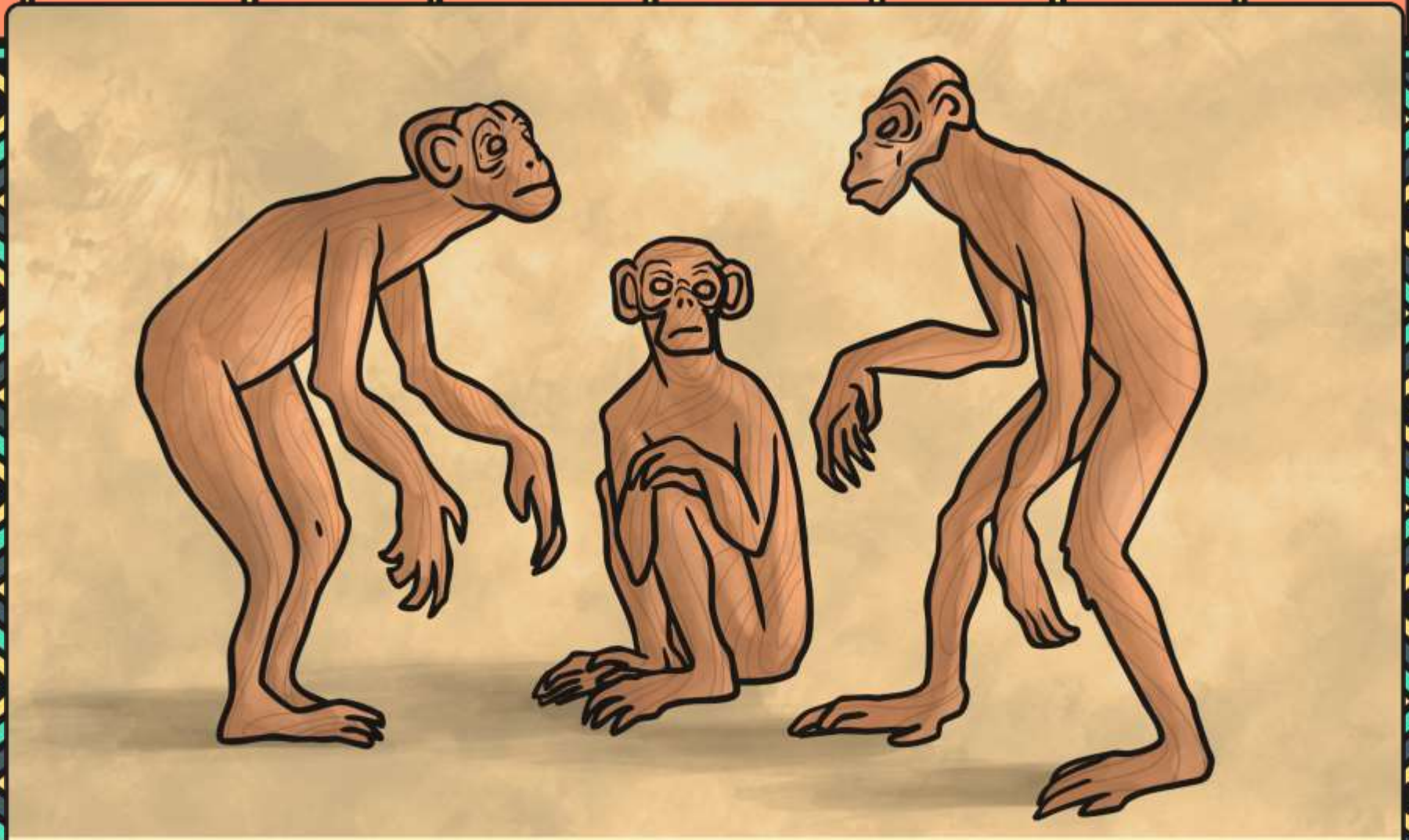
twinkl www.twinkl.co.uk

But the animals could only roar or howl, bleat, bark, twitter or moan. They tried as hard as they could to speak, but they could not. They chirped and mewed at the top of their lungs until the noise was so deafening, that Tepeu and Gucumatz ordered them to stop. Disappointed, the makers agreed that they would have to create better beings, ones who would be able to worship them properly.

twinkl www.twinkl.co.uk

The first race of men were made from wet clay. The creators gave them life, and the first men tried to speak; but instead they crumbled apart soon after they were made. The Maker and the Feathered Spirit were determined to create a hardier race of men.

twinkl www.twinkl.co.uk



The second race of men were carved from wood. These were much stronger, and were able to walk and talk and multiply. But these men had no minds and their hearts were empty. They had no memories of their creation and when they spoke their words were just as empty and meaningless. They could not praise their Gods.

twinkl www.twinkl.co.uk

Tepeu and Gucumatz sent a great flood down to destroy them. They commanded the animals to attack the survivors and tear them to pieces. The few who managed to escape fled to the woods and became monkeys. The creators left them there as an example to the next race of men.

twinkl www.twinkl.co.uk

The Maker and the Feathered Spirit thought for a long time about how they should make the race of men they wanted. There seemed to be no perfect material to build them. Finally some animals brought the Gods a stack of white corn which grew on the far side of the Earth. Tepeu and Gucumatz ground this into a paste and from this formed four individual men.

twinkl www.twinkl.co.uk

The new beings seemed perfect. They were sturdy enough to last and their minds were rich with thoughts and feelings. Their first act after their own creation was to immediately worship Tepeu and Gucumatz, and thank them for their lives. Tepeu and Gucumatz were pleased. "What do you see?" they asked the corn men.

twinkl www.twinkl.co.uk

"We can see forever, through rocks and trees and mountains to the edges of the Earth. We can see your entire creation, with all of its animals and plants. We can see and understand everything!"

Tepeu and Gucumatz looked at each other, "Perhaps we made these beings too well... they should not see as well as WE do!" The makers removed some of the men's vision. After that they could only see things close to them, and they were no longer able to see through or above things that they should not. Thus their understanding of the world was weakened.

twinkl www.twinkl.co.uk

But the men still sang their creators' praises and settled down to live on the new land. Tepeu and Gucumatz made four women to be their mates.

These eight men and women were the ancestors of all Quiche men and women today. Even today their sight and understanding of the world is not perfect.

twinkl www.twinkl.co.uk

THE END

twinkl
www.twinkl.co.uk