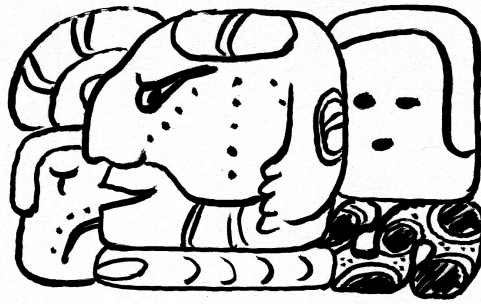


MAYAN HIEROGLYPHS

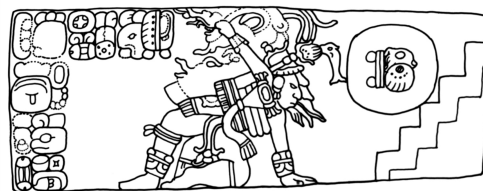
ON THE PAPER PROVIDED, DRAW THE HIEROGLYPHIC WORD AT THE RIGHT. NOTICE THAT IT IS MADE UP OF THE PARTS TO THE FAR RIGHT OF THIS CARD, CALLED "SYLLABLES."

EACH OF THE SYLLABLES CAN BE STRETCHED OR SQUISHED, AND MANY CAN BE ROTATED TO FIT THE AVAILABLE SPACE. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO MAINTAIN THE PROPER READING ORDER, AND TO LEAVE AS LITTLE OPEN SPACE AS POSSIBLE WITHIN A GLYPH BLOCK.

FOR THE ORDER, YOU START READING GLYPH BLOCKS AT THE TOP LEFT AND READ TO THE BOTTOM RIGHT.



PITZILEEN –
"I AM A BALL PLAYER"



e



le



ne



tzi



pi

GLYPH SYLLABLES

Ball player at left from HS2,
Temple 33 at Yaxchilan.

Drawing by Linda Schele

MAYAN HIEROGLYPHIC WRITING IS BASED ON SOUNDS. EACH GLYPH IMAGE REPRESENTS EITHER A VOWEL, A CONSONANT + VOWEL PAIR, OR AN ENTIRE WORD.

THE NAME FOR MONKEY IN ANCIENT MAYAN WAS BAATZ. TO WRITE THIS IN HIEROGLYPHS, YOU BREAK IT UP INTO VOWELS OR CONSONANT+VOWEL PAIRS:

BA – TZ(VOWEL).

IN THIS CASE, THE SECOND VOWEL IS DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS ONE, BUT IT WOULDN'T BE PRONOUNCED.

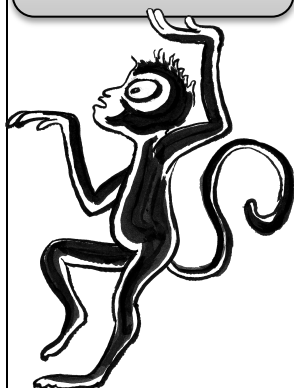
BA-TZU



ba



tzu



PUT THE WORD 'BAATZ'
TOGETHER, THEN TRY THESE
PHRASES:

'what is your name?'

bix a k'aaba tech

bi-xi a k'a-ba te-che

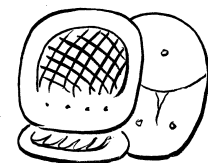
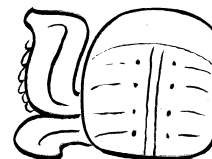
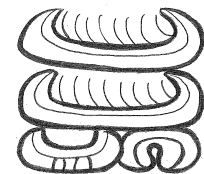
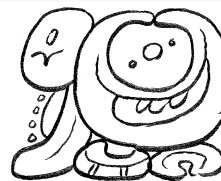
'my name is ____'

____ in k'aaba

____ i-ni k'a-ba

DECIPHERMENT PUZZLE

MATCH EACH OF THE GLYPHIC WORDS BELOW TO THE MAYAN WORDS IN THE LIST AT THE BOTTOM. (FIRST TRY IT WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE "SYLLABARY.")



ajaw – 'one who speaks'

kakaw – 'chocolate'

pakal – 'shield'

witz – 'mountain'

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
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