

The Americas



CLASSROOM RESOURCES



This mural from Bonampak, Mexico, shows ancient Maya life in the 8th century. Reconstruction by Heather Hurst and Leonard Ashby via Yale University; used under the doctrine of fair use.



Included Resources

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Bonampak Murals

Station 1: Relations with Neighbors

Messengers from Other Courts



Mural, Room 1, South Wall, Bonampak, Mexico, Maya, 791 CE. Image from Yale University Art Gallery, Gift of Bonampak Documentation Project, illustrated by Heather Hurst and Leonard Ashby.

Messengers from neighboring rulers gather, bringing tribute (gifts) and witnessing the special events.

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Station 1: Relations with Neighbors

Royal Family on Throne with Tribute Bundles Stashed Below



Mural, Room 1, East Wall, Bonampak, Mexico, Maya, 791 CE. Image from Yale University Art Gallery, Gift of Bonampak Documentation Project, illustrated by Heather Hurst and Leonard Ashby.

Messengers have brought bags of tribute—one containing 40,000 cacao (chocolate) beans.

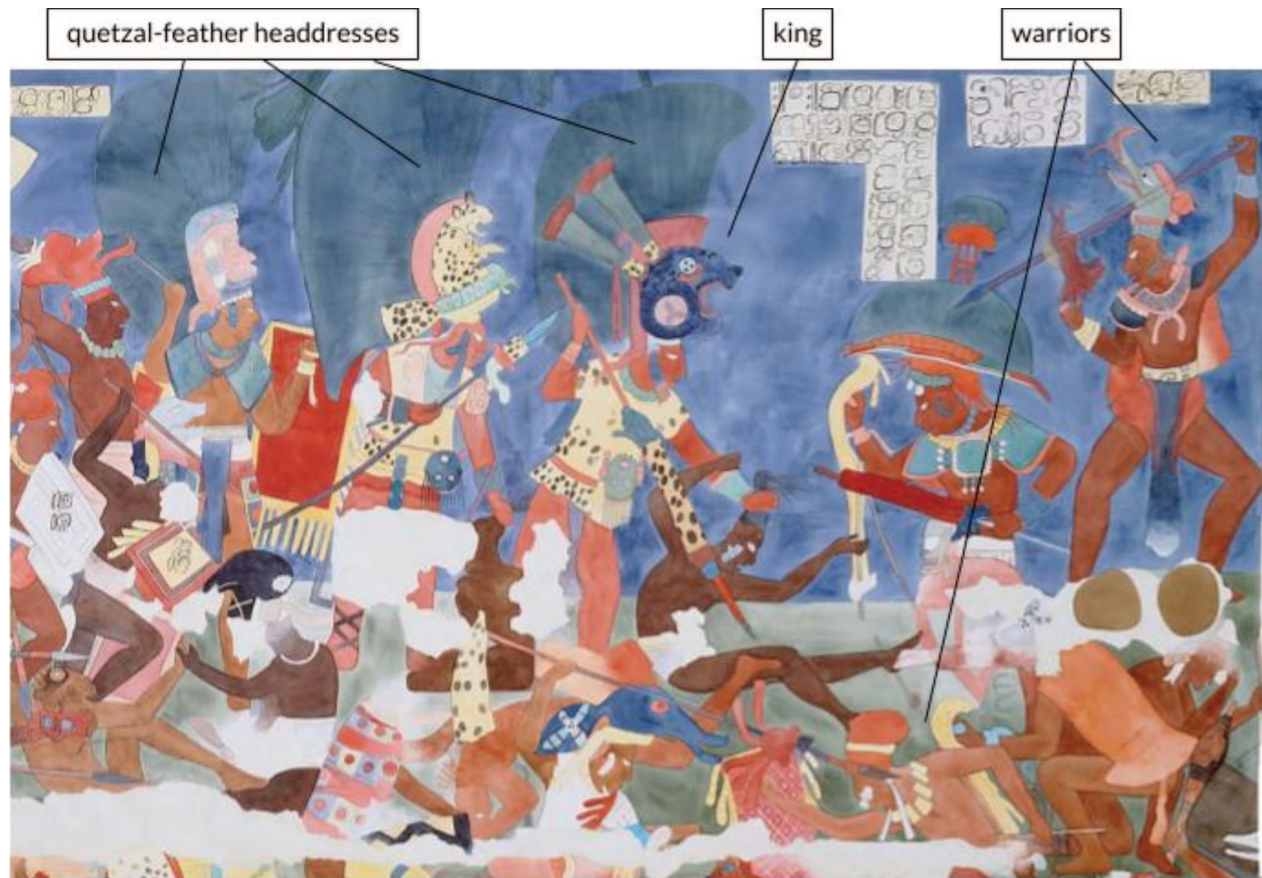
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Station 2: War

Battle Scene: King Chan Muwaan Capturing a Warrior



Mural, Room 2, South Wall, Bonampak, Mexico, Maya, 791 CE. Image from Yale University Art Gallery, Gift of Bonampak Documentation Project, illustrated by Heather Hurst and Leonard Ashby.

Warriors (nobles), in front of and behind the king, work as a team.

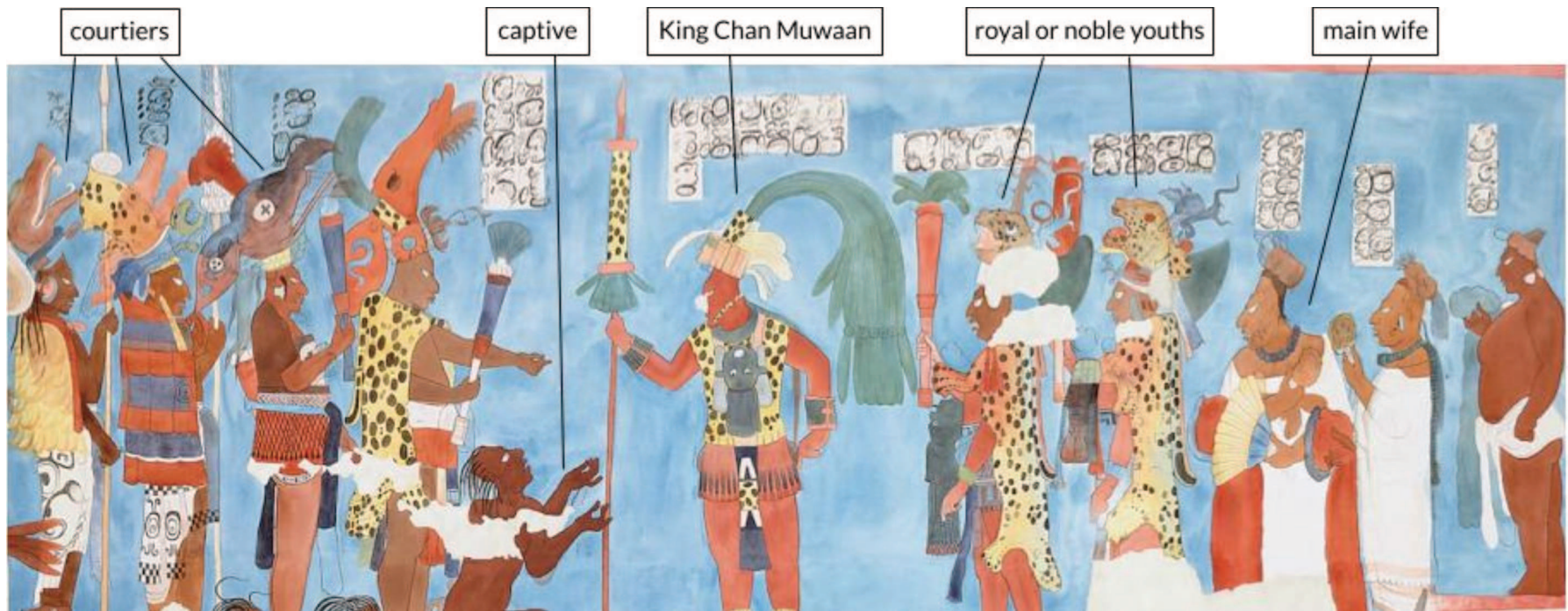
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Station 2: War

The King and His Court with a Captive from Battle



Mural, Room 2, North Wall, Bonampak, Mexico, Maya, 791 CE. Image from Yale University Art Gallery, Gift of Bonampak Documentation Project, illustrated by Heather Hurst and Leonard Ashby.

A relative offers the king a precious bead and quetzal feathers—possibly taken from foes.

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Station 3: Orchestra and Dancers

Orchestra Playing for the Dancers



Mural, Room 1, West Wall, Bonampak, Mexico, Maya, 791 CE. Image from Yale University Art Gallery, Gift of Bonampak Documentation Project, illustrated by Heather Hurst and Leonard Ashby.

The musicians and singers all wear white woven headdresses, painted deer-hide skirts, and hipcloths.

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Station 3: Orchestra and Dancers

Musicians and Dancers



Mural, Room 1, North Wall, Bonampak, Mexico, Maya, 791 CE. Image from Yale University Art Gallery, Gift of Bonampak Documentation Project, illustrated by Heather Hurst and Leonard Ashby.

A dancer, dressed as a wind god, exchanges an ear of corn.

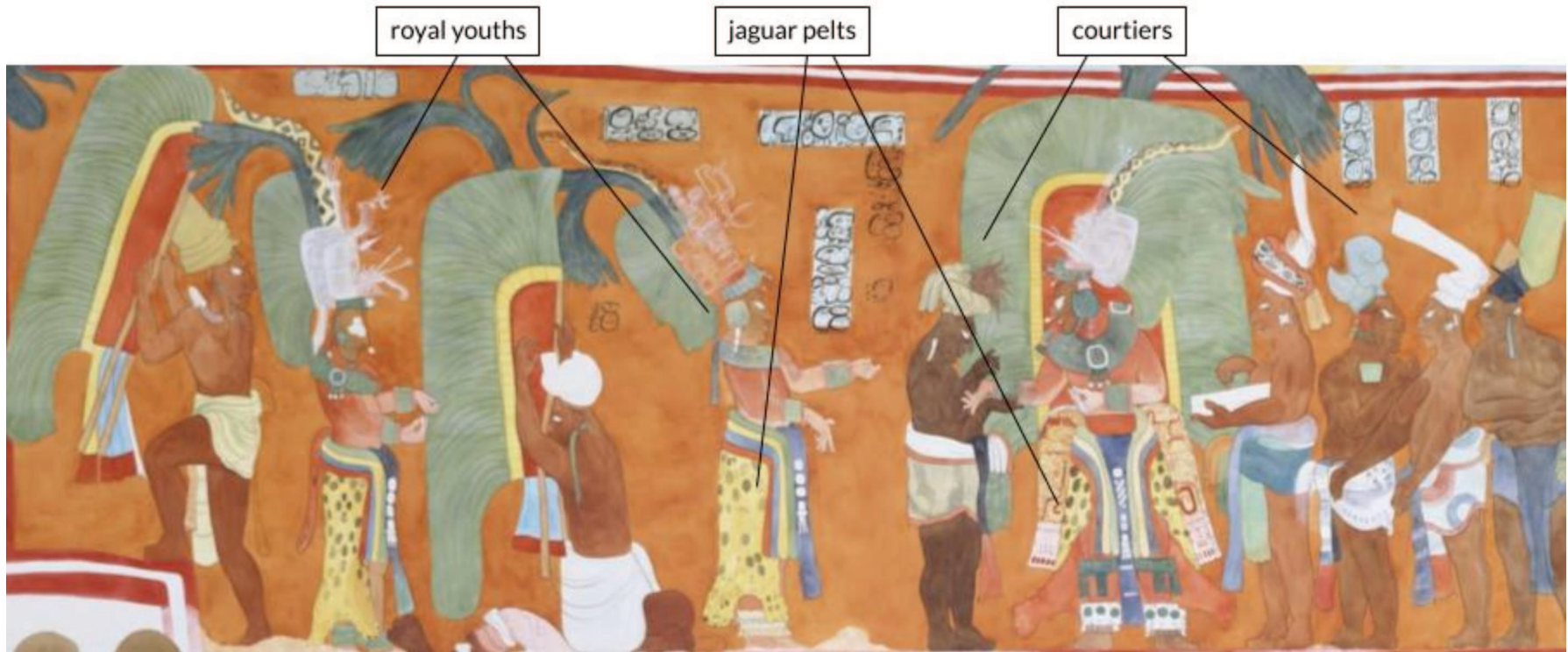
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Station 4: Royal Dance Ceremony

Royal Youths Dress for the Dance



Mural, Room 1, North Wall, Bonampak, Mexico, Maya, 791 CE. Image from Yale University Art Gallery, Gift of Bonampak Documentation Project, illustrated by Heather Hurst and Leonard Ashby.

Courtiers help three royal youths put on their feathered backracks and other special decorations.

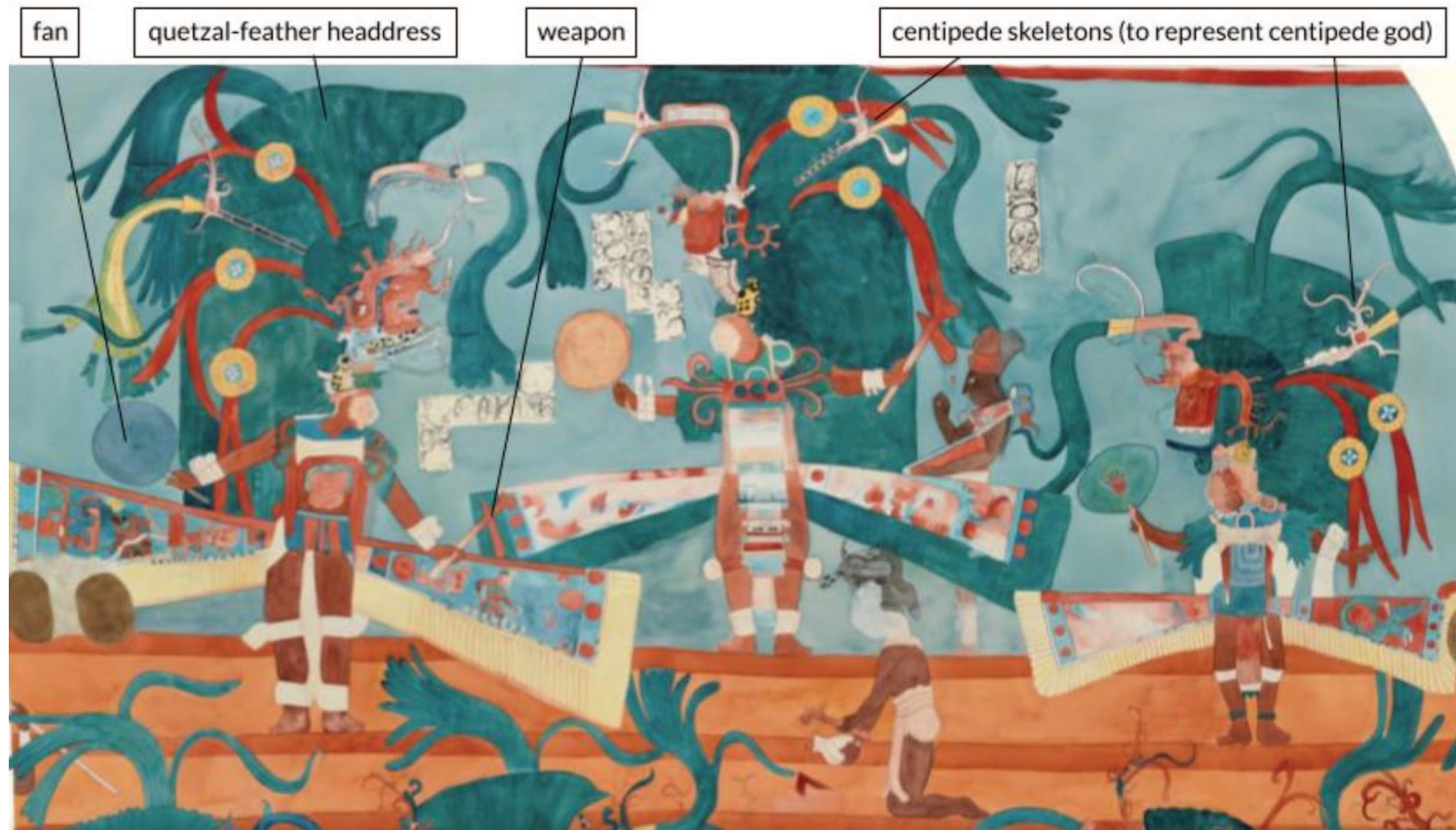
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Station 4: Royal Dance Ceremony

Ceremonial Dance on the Steps



Mural, Room 1, South Wall, Bonampak, Mexico, Maya, 791 CE. Image from Yale University Art Gallery, Gift of Bonampak Documentation Project, illustrated by Heather Hurst and Leonard Ashby.

To the sound of trumpets, royal or noble youths perform a dance timed to solar events.

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Cultural Artifacts Gallery Walk

Artifact 1



Taino canoe. Image by Unknown author via The Louverture Project is in the public domain.

Artifact 2



Artifact 3



Artifact 4

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Artifact 3: Taíno Rattle. Image from the Metropolitan Museum via Wikimedia Commons is in the public domain.

Artifact 4: Taíno - Yoke (Ballgame Trophy). Image from the Walters Art Museum via Wikimedia Commons is in the public domain.

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