

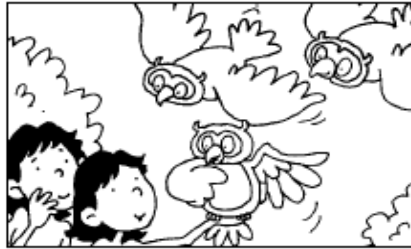
# MAYA MYTHS

## The Story of the Hero Twins

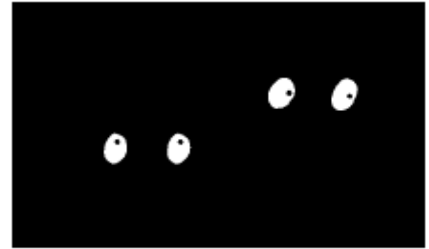
Read the tale below of the "Hero Twins" Hunahpu (*hoo nah poo*) and Xbalanque (*shaw bal an kay*), two famous characters in Maya mythology. The story tells how the twins outsmarted the gods of the underworld, or Xibalba (*shee bahl bah*), to become immortal.



The twins loved to play ball, but the noise of their playing made the underworld gods angry.



The gods sent messenger owls to summon the twins down to the underworld, called Xibalba.



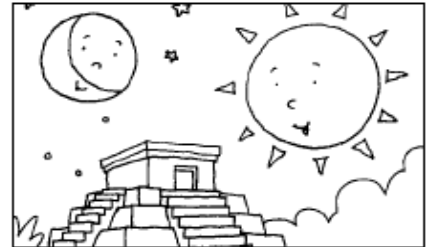
The gods made the twins stay in the Dark House, which was the first of many scary nights.



The twins escaped by tricking the gods, winning every challenge they faced in Xibalba.



After the last challenge, the twins jumped in a river and turned into magical catfish.



The twins were later reborn as the sun and the moon—more powerful than the underworld!

**TASK:** Using the ideas above and the structure below (from the story you read this week – there are slightly different versions), create your own 8-box comic for The Legend of the Hero Twins. You can print off the template on the next page or create your own, drawing your boxes using a pencil and ruler.

- Twins, called Hunahpu and Xbalanque, loved to play ball games but the noise that their playing attracted from a crowd angered the Underworld gods (the Lords of Death).
- The twins were invited by the gods to play a ball game in the Underworld, called Xibalba.
- The twins set off on their journey to the Underworld having to cross many disgusting rivers to reach their destination. Finally, they arrived at the house of the Lords of Death and darkness surrounded them.
- The twins were given a series of tests, some they failed and some they passed. Full of exhaustion and desperation, they threw themselves into a fiery oven, dying instantly.
- The gods were furious that they had been tricked and threw the twins' ashes into a river. The twins transformed into a pair of catfish with magical powers.
- The twins returned to human form and travelled the country, showing everyone their new magical powers.
- The twins were invited back to the Underworld, killing two of the Lords of Death. The other gods knew they had been defeated and sent them back to earth.
- The gods in the heavens had been watching and brought the twins to heaven – one became the sun and the other became the moon.

