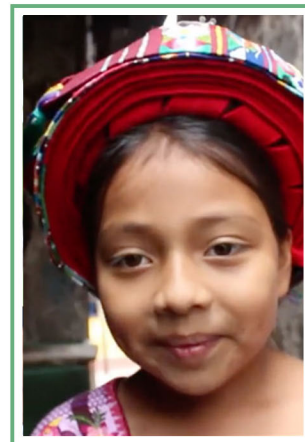


WRAPPING A TYPICAL MAYAN TOCOYAL

The tocoyal is a beautiful and intricate traditional woven head covering worn by Mayan women in Guatemala. In this video from the Unbound archives, a mother carefully and lovingly wraps a tocoyal for her daughter.



SUGGESTED USE

Show the video followed by a short discussion. Questions for discussion might include:

1. Like many traditional clothing items, a tocoyal serves more than one purpose. What are some you can think of? (It protects from the sun, keeps a girl's hair in place, and identifies her as belonging to a particular Mayan community.)
2. What did you notice about the tocoyal and Josefa's (the girl's) outfit? (beautiful embroidery, characteristic of Mayan clothing.)
3. How would you describe the attitudes of Josefa and her mother? (Besides being perhaps a little shy about being filmed, Josefa seems happy but eager to be finished, while her mother is on task trying to get her daughter ready for the day. In other words, they're like mothers and daughters everywhere.)
4. The length of a tocoyal depends on the age of the person wearing it. For elderly women, it could be as long as 75 feet. (Have a ribbon or string about 75 feet long and slowly unwind it to demonstrate just how long it is.)

Prayer

Loving Father, the many nations and people of the world you created have wonderful customs and traditions. Thank you for the colors, shapes and textures that different cultures bring into our lives. Help us to see that our differences aren't a problem to solve but a blessing to share. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.