

SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM

Fiery Pool: The Maya and the Mythic Sea

Bringing your class to the exhibition

Standard booking procedures apply for *Fiery Pool*. We offer an advanced group ticket price of \$1 per student and one free adult ticket for every ten students. Tours can be booked Tuesday-Thursday by completing the on line tour request form at www.slam.org/tours.

Teaching suggestions

Creatures of the Fiery Pool

One of themes of *Fiery Pool* is animals and plants that live in water. Have the class work together as a group to make a list of animals that dwell in a watery environment. Then look at examples of animals in the exhibition. If you don't visit the exhibition, look at www.pem.org/exhibitions/106-fiery_pool_the_maya_and_the_mythic_sea. There are activities for students and other materials on the exhibition located there. Students can choose one or more animals to depict in a three dimensional medium—clay, model magic. Then using a small box or folded piece of heavy paper, create a watery environment for the animal or use a large box to create an environment for all the animals created by the class.

Deciphering glyphs

Have students do some research about Maya writing. A good web site to check out is www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/mayacode/. It includes a teacher's guide and an online math activity for older students.

The Mythic Sea

Ask students what they think of when they hear the word "water," and instruct them to make a list of at least 10 related words going beyond "wet" (examples: turbulent, glittering, stormy, frothy). Talk about how words can be shown graphically and then have the students use their lists to create a design of words depicting many characteristics of water. If you decide to use color in the designs, encourage students to use something more than just blue. Is water always blue? When can it be some other color?