

Cerro Narrío

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WPI

Level 4





About the Story

The *Cerro Narrío* story was provided by Lcdo. Antonio Quinde, an Indigenous community leader in Cañar, Ecuador.

He became the first president of *Ecuarunari* in 1972. His grandsons, Apu and Inti, also helped write this story.

Today, Don Antonio is a retired professor and often speaks to community members and researchers about Cañari culture and history.



Long ago, the Cañaris lived in the Andes Mountains of Ecuador. They were **farmers** and **brave warriors**. The Cañaris valued nature and **worshiped** the moon.

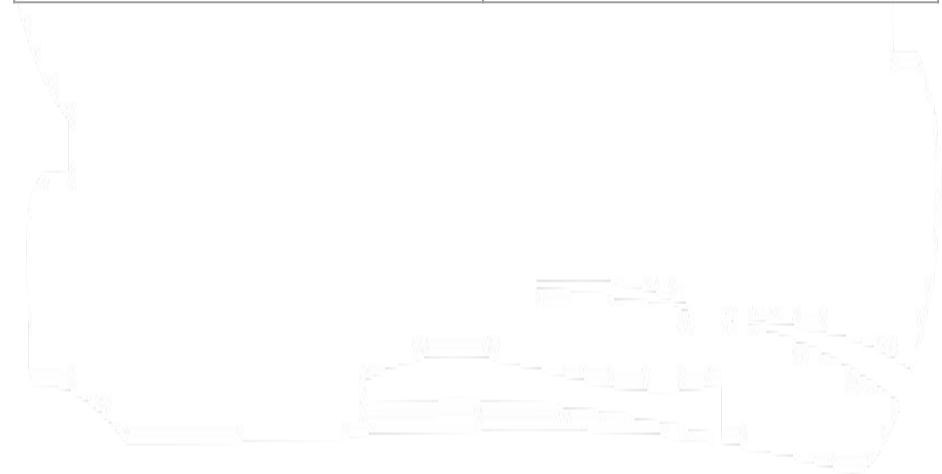


They built a **hill** to honor the moon. The **hill** was shaped like a turtle **shell**, which looks like a half-moon. This **hill** was sacred, and they called it *Cerro Narrío*.

Cerro Narrío was a **cemetery** for the Cañaris. People were **buried** with personal items like silver, gold, **pottery**, and **weapons**.



Represent (<i>Representar</i>)	Servir como signo o símbolo
Crops (<i>Cultivo; cosecha</i>)	Las plantas de un granjero
Cycle (<i>Ciclo</i>)	Una serie de hechos que se repiten
Scales (<i>Carapaces; escamas</i>)	Un pequeño hueso que protegen un animal
Principles (<i>Principales</i>)	Ideas importantes para una lista de creencias
Archeologists (<i>Arqueólogo</i>)	Alguien que estudia la historia de las civilizaciones humanos
Pieces (<i>Pedazos</i>)	Una pieza rota de un objeto



Vocabulary

Farmer (<i>Granjero</i>)	Persona cuida de una granja y de los productos de campo
Brave (<i>Valiente</i>)	Una persona que no tiene miedo
Warrior (<i>Luchador</i>)	Persona que lucha
Worship (<i>Adorar</i>)	La adoración
Hill (<i>Loma; Cerro</i>)	Montaña cubierta de césped
Shell (<i>Cascada; Concha</i>)	El exterior de un animal que lo protege
Cemetery (<i>Cementerio</i>)	Lugar destinado a enterrar a las personas muertas
Bury (<i>Enterrar</i>)	Poner bajo tierra
Pottery (<i>Vasijas</i>)	Vasijas hechos de cerámica
Weapons (<i>Armas</i>)	Un objeto que usa para proteger



The shape of the **hill** changed over time. As more Cañaris were **buried**, the **hill** began to grow taller.

The Cañaris believed that at night, *Cerro Narrío* opened, and three dogs came out of the **hill**. The dogs protected what was **buried**, and disappeared in the morning.



Around *Cerro Narrío*, there were thirteen smaller **hills**. Each **hill represented** a different month on the Cañari calendar. The **farmers** used this calendar to help them remember when to plant their **crops**.

Comprehension Questions

1. What do the Cañaris worship?
2. What animal is *Cerro Narrío* shaped like?
3. What two things do the Cañaris use the **hill** for?
4. What were the Cañaris **buried** with?
5. How many months are in the Cañari calendar?

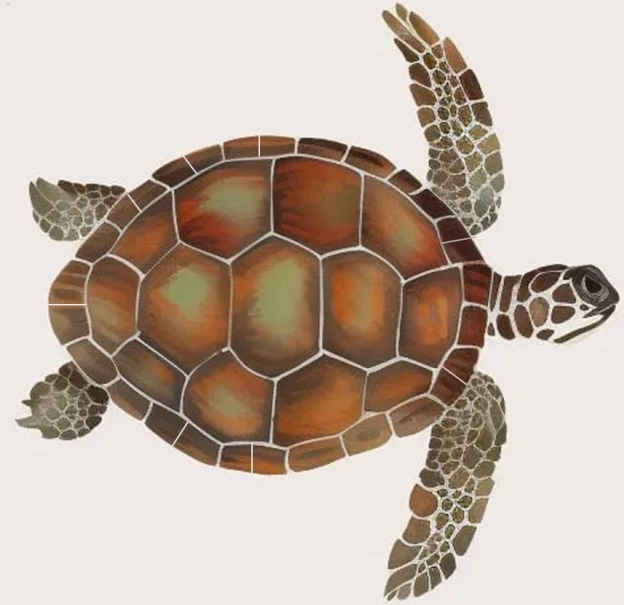
Discussion Questions

1. Did you learn something new today?
2. What was something interesting you learned in this story?



Cerro Narrío can still be seen in Cañar today. **Pieces** of the ancient **pottery** can be found all over the **hill**. Even though the **hill** has a different shape, it is important to the community today.

The Cañaris created a calendar that followed the moon cycle. The calendar had thirteen months. Each month on the calendar was twenty-eight days long.



They also used a turtle **shell** to represent their calendar. The **scales** in the middle of the turtle **shell** each **represent** the thirteen months of the year. The **scales** around the edge of the turtle **shell** represent the twenty-eight days of each month.



There are seven other **hills** near *Cerro Narrío*. These seven **hills** represent the **principles** of the Cañaris. Respect, family, and community are important to the Cañaris.



Centuries later, **archeologists**, people who study past civilizations, came to *Cerro Narrío*. During their visit, they found **pieces** of **pottery**, silver, and gold.

However, these **archeologists** didn't know about the Cañari culture. All they cared about was the silver and gold.