

# Cerro Narrío

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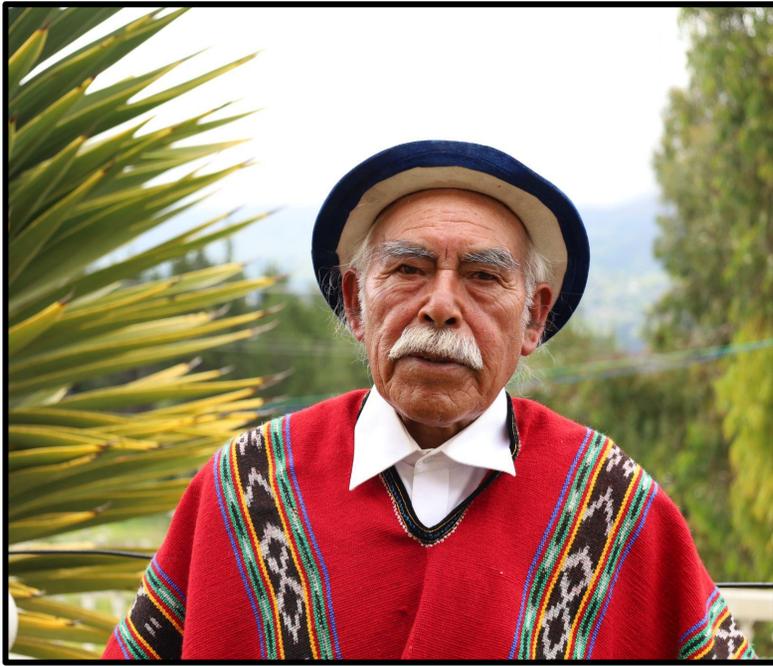
*Cuenca, Ecuador Project Site | 2023*



**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.

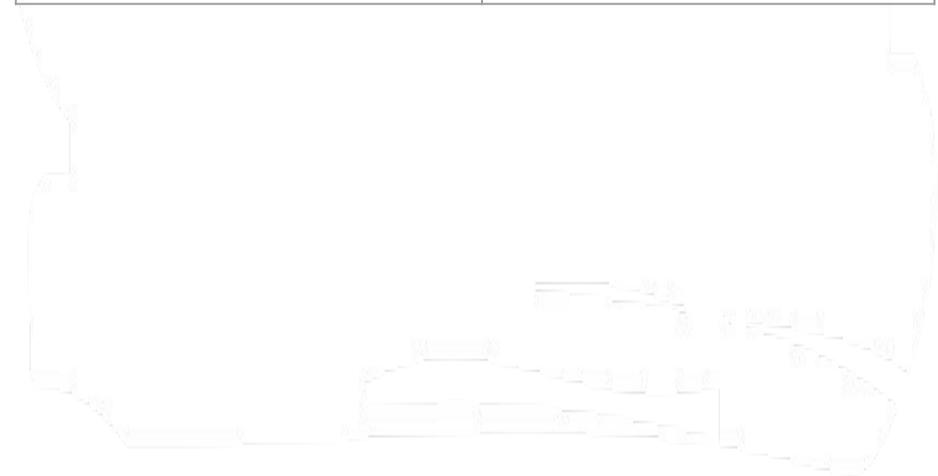


They built a **hill** to honor the moon. The **hill** was shaped like a turtle **shell**, which looks like a half-moon. This **hill** was sacred, and they called it *Cerro Narrío*.

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



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



# Vocabulary

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

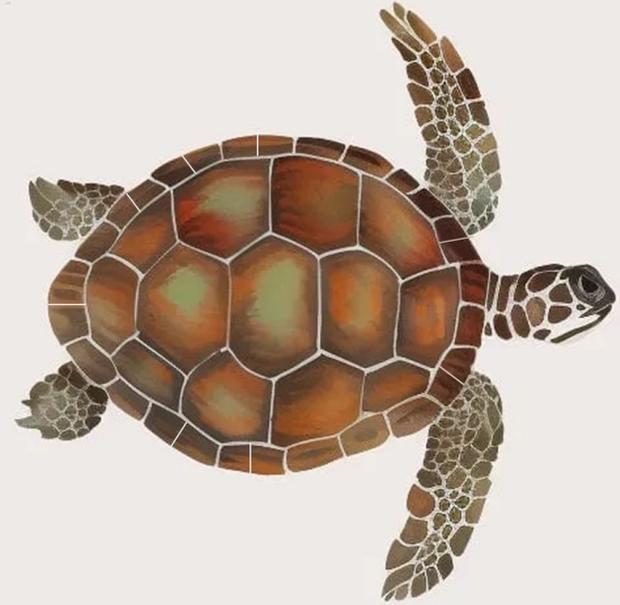
## Discussion Questions

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.