

Duquesne Beach Petroglyphs



Field Trip Guide

Grenada National Museum: Teacher Kit
Adventures Outside the Museum

Student Activity Handout: Symbols

Cultural Imagery

Section 1: Next to each symbol, write its meaning. Think about its context (where you usually see this symbol). What might someone think if they knew absolutely nothing about its physical or cultural context?



Section 2: This is a symbol from an ancient culture. What do you think it means?



Answers

Student Activity Handout: Symbols

Section 1 Answers (left to right)

Slippery Surface	Grenlec
Firefox (internet browser icon)	Caution
Winding Road Ahead	No Diving
Facebook “Like” button	Love
Support for HIV/AIDS	Peace

Section 2 Answers

This symbol is an ancient Maya hieroglyph that stands for “monkey.”

Tell Students: it’s hard to know the meaning of a symbol without being part of the society that created it. If you were to create a symbol that stands for “monkey,” you would probably come up with something a little different because we think about monkeys differently than the ancient Maya. Likewise, why does a “heart” stand for “love”? or a red ribbon for “HIV/AIDS” or a circle with an upside down Y for “peace”? We automatically recognize many of these symbols because they come from within our culture, but their meanings are much deeper than their simple imagery suggests.

Extension Question (If You Completed the Culture Lesson):

- How do symbols relate to the iceberg example of culture?