



Educator's Vault Lesson

Artist: Luz Maria Lopez
Grade Level: Elementary

Inspiration:

Share Luz Maria Lopez's painting, *Capturing the Ants* from AMoA's Educators Vault.

Luz Maria Lopez creates paintings that tell the creation myths of her Mayan ancestors. This one tells the story of how the Mayan gods hid all the corn to punish the humans, but the ants found it, buried it under rocks, and told the humans where the corn was hidden. When the gods of the Maya found out what the ants had done, they captured the ants and tied ropes around their waists – and that is why ants today have small waists!

Talk about what students know about ants: They live in a colony, work together to gather food and bring it back. They are extremely strong and extremely small.

Questions for Students:

- Have you ever captured any ants?
- What did you do with them?
- What do you think these "gods" are planning to do with the ants?
- What other insects live and work like ants?

Watch the YouTube video called [Hey, Little Ant](#).

This video will lead to more discussion on ants.

Next, watch [How to Draw ant Step by Step \(Super Easy Drawings\)](#)

Process:

1. Students will practice drawing an ant.
2. Allow students to draw an ending to the video story, *Hey, little Ant*.