

*Background:* This source comes from a chronicle account, which is an older type of history book used from ancient times until the eighteenth century. The chronicle describes certain events in a narrative or story form. The writer does not explain background information or the reasons behind people’s actions. When you read a chronicle, think about why people might be doing what they are doing.

**A Chontal Maya Account of the Conquest, 1612 (Source 3)**

[Fray Diego de Béjar said:] ... I have come to tell you, to explain, that the one single God is three in one person — God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit — who created the invisible heaven .... I wish you all to come and show me your devils”... [All the statues of gods] were brought before Fray Diego de Béjar — who burned them. Then he began to teach them to recite and sing the Paternoster [and] the Ave Maria.... Then they were given their names. The ruler was named don Pedro Paxtun. ... And thus they became Christians. The devils which had been buried in secret places by the people ... were sought out in all the towns.... The guardians of the devils went to fetch them to be burned, for those men who kept them were imprisoned and beaten before the eyes of all the people....

**Part I. Sentence Deconstruction Chart**

Directions: Using the excerpt from the *Chontal Maya Account of the Conquest*, fill in the following sentence deconstruction chart by writing in the missing words and phrases in the middle column. Identify the historical actors if there is a blank in parentheses (\_\_\_\_). When you have finished, answer the questions in the far right-hand column.

Connector and Introductory Words	Historical Actor	Verb Phrase	Who, What, Where	Questions or Conclusions
[Fray Diego de Béjar said:]	I (_____)	have come to tell you, to explain	that the one single god is three in one person – God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit ....	Why did the friar call the statues of the Maya gods “devils”?
I wish	you all (_____)		me your devils (_____).....	
	[All the statues of gods]		Fray Diego de Béjar	Why did the friar burn the statues?
	who (_____)		them (_____) .....	
	The devils which		in secret places by the people	Did all the Chontal Maya people want to turn over the statues to the friar?
			in all the towns...	
	The guardians of the devils		them to be burned	What happened to Chontal Maya people who did not do what the friar said?
for	those men who kept them		before the eyes of all the people...	

Directions: Verb phrases can be active or passive. Passive verbs contain some form of the verb *to be*, such as *were* or *been*. If the verb is active, it is easy to tell who the subject is. But if the verb is passive, the actors can be hidden. Writers sometimes use the passive voice to hide the responsibility of actors for embarrassing or unpopular actions. For each example in the passive voice, rewrite it in the active voice and answer the questions. The first one is done for you.

Passive voice: [All the statues of gods] were bought before Fray Diego de Béjar ...

Active voice: **XXXX brought all the statues of the gods before Fray Diego de Béjar.**

Who is XXXX? **Chontal Maya people who wanted (or said they wanted) to change from the Maya religion to the Christian religion.**

Why might their action be embarrassing or unpopular? **Maybe the Spanish friars and soldiers threatened the Chontal Maya leaders. Maybe some Chontal Maya people blamed their leaders for giving up their religion.**

Passive voice: The devils which had been buried in secret places by the people...

Active voice:

Who are “the people”?

Why might their action be embarrassing or unpopular?

Passive voice: The devils ... were sought out in all the towns ...

Active voice:

Who is XXXX?

Why might their action be embarrassing or unpopular?

Passive voice: Those men who kept them were imprisoned and beaten before the eyes of all the people ...

Active voice:

Who is XXXX?

Why might their action be embarrassing or unpopular?