

Language, Knowledge, and Relationality

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Why Language Matters

- ★ Language can play an essential part in communicating ideas, concepts, and stories
- ★ Therefore, language can be crucial in the preservation of knowledge(s)
- ★ Language, whether it is visual, verbal, etc, often plays a large part in shaping culture, as well as collective and individual identities



1408 - ish:

Roughly 20,000 to 50,000 Taínos are estimated to have lived in Puerto Rico prior to Spanish Colonization, after the Caribs raided them

1508

1544:
60 Taínos
'counted'

***2010 US Census:**

9,399 people in Puerto Rico identified as being Taíno in combination with other identities
3,351 identified as being Taíno alone

1515:

4,000 Taínos
'counted'

1898:

Spanish-American War, Puerto Rico is invaded, US colonization begins

(1500s - 1800s)

A Brief History of 'Extinction'

The General Council of Taíno (GCT)

- Founded in the 1970s
- Argue for speaker identity and spirit to be classifiers that someone is speaking Taíno, rather than actual language index
- Based in northern & metropolitan areas of Puerto Rico near San Juan



General council of Taíno (GCT)

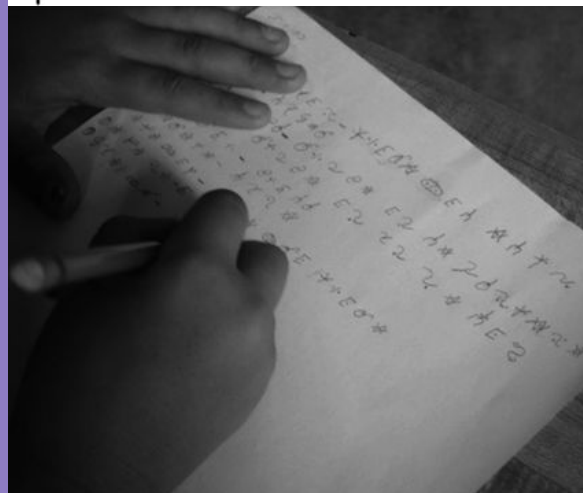
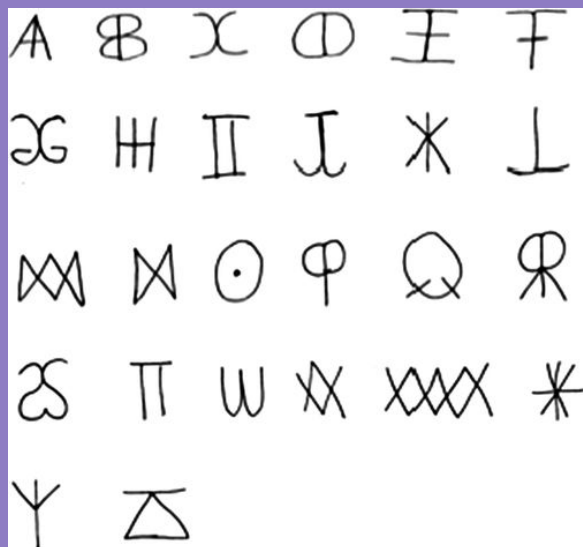
This organisation argues that anything said in the language of the Taíno/Boricua becomes Taíno/Boricua

They are trying to define the authentic and legitimate in an effort to reinforce Taíno belonging



Environ-
mental
stance

Guaka-Kú (GK) Liga Guakía Taína-Ké (LGTK)



- GK & LGTK assemble ‘tokens’ of Taíno vocabulary in speech and writing to serve as a ‘material index’ of survival
- focus on enactive and performative aspects in relation to literacy practices
- Taíno words are understood as having a transformative effect on world,

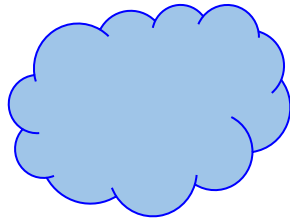


Guaka-Kú (GK)

Liga Guakía Taína-Ke (LGTK)

These organizations seek to develop new ways of defining what counts as Taíno to preserve the language.

They also have an extensive list of the alphabet detailing the phonetics and such within the Taíno language



They have cultural immersion programs that promote the learning of the history and socio political thought tied to the taino language

Taíno Nation (TN) & Movimiento Indígena Jíbaro Boricua (MIJB)



Preservation of the taino culture and heritage lead by *Elder Pedro Guanikeyu Torres*



Pictured at 26ys/o

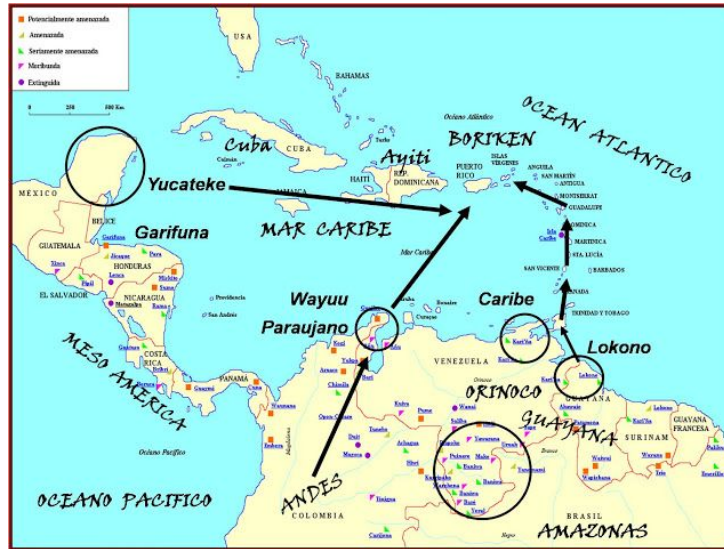


The website which they have discusses a lot about the heritage; it also describes the struggles that they face due to their indigineity

Contextualizing Revitalization Amongst Decolonization

Revitalizing an Indigenous language is crucial in the hopes of fighting colonialism. When a language does get revitalized it begins to illustrate the importance and relevance of a culture left behind

A question to ponder is whether revitalizing the Taino language is fighting the spanish colonization or the American colonization?



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