



***Jun Ajpu'* was able to play a ball game after his head was cut off: Is it possible?**



The cognitive science behind the adventures of
Jun Ajpu' & Xb'alamke'

Part 1.1

Outline

1. A story from *Popol Wuj*
2. Neuroscience
3. Discussion time

(1) *Popol Wuj*

What happened in the House of Bats of Xibalba

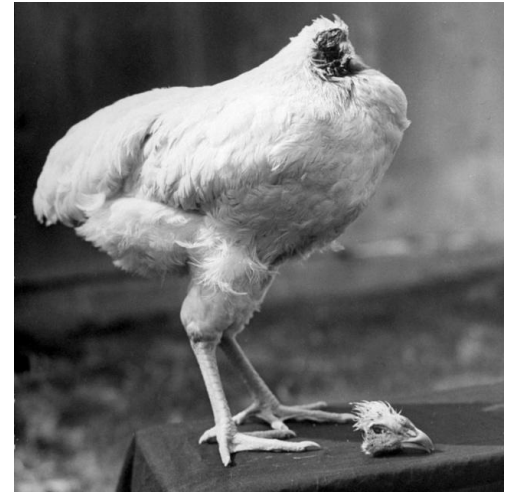


What happened in the House of Bats

1. Entering the House of Bats
2. The Loss of Hunahpu's Head
3. Summoning the Animals for Help
4. Creating a New Head
5. The Ball Game
6. The Squash as a Ball

Mike, the headless chicken

- It is apparently possible to stay alive after being beheaded!
- But why?





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(2) Cognitive Science

Neuroscience: Parts of a brain

The cortex

Frontal lobe

- Planning and cognitive control

Parietal lobe

- Aggregation of senses

Occipital lobe

- Vision

Temporal lobe

- Hearing



The brain stem

It is responsible for regulating essential life functions such as heart rate, breathing, and blood pressure.

It also acts as a pathway for signals between the brain and the body, controlling basic motor skills and reflexes.



The cerebellum

Coordinates voluntary movements, balance, and motor control. It helps fine-tune movements, ensuring smooth, precise actions.

More recently we discovered that it is also involved in some cognitive functions like attention and language.





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(3) Discussion time

How would you introduce the brain to children?

Some ideas

- Games (where is the centre of the brain?)
- Stories
- Picture books
- Videos