

Examples taken from “Desert art”

- The people who made these patterns (lines) **couldn't have seen** them from above.
- They **must have been** part of an astronomical calendar.
- They **could have been** landing strips.
- Water **must have had** an incredible significance.
- This **must have seemed** an astonishing phenomenon to ancient societies.

SPECULATION AND DEDUCTION IN THE PAST

1) We are certain something was **TRUE** in the past: **must + have + past participle**

*"They **must have been** part of an astronomical calendar"*

2) We think something was **POSSIBLE** in the past: **may/might/could + have + past participle**

*"They **may have been** ancient Inca roads"*

3) We are certain something was **NOT TRUE** in the past: **can't/couldn't + have + past participle**

*"They **couldn't have seen** the Nasca Lines from above"*

Complete the second sentence so it has a similar meaning

We know water was hard to find.

Water must

Perhaps the lines had a religious significance

The lines may.....

It isn't logical that the animal drawings were roads.

The animal drawings couldn't.....