

CANTUÑA AND HIS PACT WITH THE DEVIL

- **Carefully read the following passage about Cantuña and the construction of the Church of San Francisco atrium in Quito.**

Cantuña was a respected indigenous in colonial times and he was entrusted with the construction of the atrium of the Church of San Francisco in Quito.

The pay for this work was excellent, but the condition was that it had to be done in the shortest possible time. Cantuña then decided to sell his soul to the devil with the condition that all the stones of the atrium were placed there before the first rays of the sun came out.

He recorded on a stone that anyone who touched it would recognize God alone. Three little demons who worked that night could not touch the stone and left the construction incomplete.



When the devil came to take the soul of Cantuña, he claimed that the work had not been completed and that therefore, he could not meet the deal, winning his soul back.

- **Multiple-Choice Questions: Choose the correct answer for each question.**

This activity is designed to enhance your reading comprehension skills and your ability to recall and interpret key details from a text. Good luck!

1. Who was Cantuña?

- a) A Spanish conquistador
- b) A respected Indigenous person
- c) A colonial governor
- d) A church priest

2. What task was Cantuña entrusted with?

- a) Building a cathedral
- b) Constructing a bridge
- c) Designing a monument
- d) Building the atrium of the Church of San Francisco

3. What was the condition attached to the excellent pay for Cantuña's work?

- a) It had to be done by a specific date
- b) It had to be done in the shortest possible time
- c) It had to be done with the best materials
- d) It had to be approved by the governor

4. What deal did Cantuña make to ensure the work was completed on time?

- a) He borrowed money from the king
- b) He hired additional workers
- c) He sold his soul to the devil
- d) He asked the church for help

5. What was the specific condition in Cantuña's deal with the devil?

- a) All the stones had to be in place before the sun set
- b) All the stones had to be in place before the first rays of the sun came out
- c) The work had to be finished in one month
- d) The work had to be approved by the church

6. How did Cantuña ensure that the deal with the devil would not be fulfilled?

- a) He hid some stones
- b) He marked a stone that could not be touched by demons
- c) He delayed the work intentionally
- d) He prayed for divine intervention

7. What did the three little demons do during the construction?

- a) They sabotaged the work
- b) They worked to place the stones
- c) They watched over the construction
- d) They argued with Cantuña

8. What happened when the devil came to claim Cantuña's soul?

- a) Cantuña ran away
- b) Cantuña completed the work himself
- c) Cantuña claimed the work was incomplete
- d) The church protected Cantuña

9. Why was the devil unable to take Cantuña's soul in the end?

- a) The work was incomplete
- b) Cantuña refused to give it
- c) The church intervened
- d) The devil broke the deal

10. What can be inferred about Cantuña's character based on his actions in the story?

- a) He was dishonest and lazy
- b) He was clever and resourceful
- c) He was greedy and selfish
- d) He was weak and fearful