

ROLO

to the Rescue

GROWN-UP'S GUIDE



WONDERBOOKS





Some helpful things to know

Who are the Mayas?

The Mayas are a community of people who have lived on the lands of southern Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, and Honduras for almost 4,000 years. Maya religion and culture survived the disease and destruction brought by the Spanish invasion in the 1500s. Today, the Maya number about 10 million people.

What is life like for modern Maya children like Rudi?

The Mayan way of life is much more traditional and quieter than most of Mexico. And 11-year-old Rudi loves it. *"I like the Mayan culture because in other places you have cars passing by all the time."*

He prefers sleeping in a hammock to a bed. *"When it is hot, we swing in the hammock to sleep. It's good for that. You can't swing in a bed."*

And he loves Mayan food! *"The life of Mayan children like me is healthy. We eat chaya [a shrub], white beans, black beans. We eat chili. We eat tomatoes."*

Why can life be difficult for Mayan people in Mexico?

The government in Mexico wants the Mayans to keep their own language, but life is still hard for them. Many don't go to school, and those who do find it difficult to get safe, well paid jobs. Some Mayans aren't able to get healthcare or other support from the government, unlike most Mexicans.

How does Save the Children help children and families like Rudi's?

Save the Children runs activities using theatre and performance to help promote pride in Mayan culture and traditions. We also support children to stay healthy



Carve with Grandpa

Note: Make sure you have a grown-up with you!
As you know, Rudi pays close attention to what the grown-ups in his community do. He particularly enjoys making wooden toys with his grandpa. Rudi says: “My grandfather showed me how to make the toy, and how to select which wood you can use to make it... I like doing this in the holidays.”



You will need:

A bar of (completely dry) soap
A pencil
Carving tools, like a blunt knife or toothpicks.

An idea of what you want to carve – here are some suggestions:



1. Place your bar of soap on a piece of paper and draw an outline of the soap.
2. Practice drawing your design on the paper. Then draw it onto the soap.
3. Carve a rough outline of your design by cutting away small pieces at a time, within half a centimetre of the outline.
4. Continue slowly to create the final outline, turning the bar as you work.
5. Work in your details – you might find your toothpick useful here.
6. Polish by rubbing any flakes away, then dunk your soap in a jug of water and place on a clean surface. Once dry, your soap carving will be nice and shiny!
7. Share a picture of your beautiful creation with us on social media, or at wonderbooks@savethechildren.org.uk

To find out more about children who inspire stories like Wonderbooks, visit [savethechildren.org.uk](https://www.savethechildren.org.uk)

Photo credit: Jonathan Hyams/Save the Children
Activity credit: [artistshelpingchildren.org](https://www.artistshelpingchildren.org)
Illustrations courtesy of: Maria Tuti

Tips for reading this book with your child

Before you read

Have a look at the cover together, and ask 'What do you think this book might be about?'

While you read

Start each page by asking 'What can you see?' to give the reader space to respond freely.

After reading

Reflect on the book together. Here are some questions to help start a conversation with your little reader:

What skills do the people in your family have?

Which of your family's skills would you like to learn?

Why do you think Rolo wanted to find his own skill so badly?

What do you think you could teach somebody?

Hammock time!

Hang out in your very own hammock like Rolo.

Find a double sheet (or larger), take the diagonal corners, feed one under the table and up the other side, tie a tight double knot at the centre of the table (knot on top of the table). ¡Ahí está! And there you have it, your own table hammock!

You could even place another sheet over the whole table to make a den for your hammock.

Note: Please make sure your table is nice and sturdy!

If you have any questions about Wonderbooks, email us at wonderbooks@savethechildren.org.uk

Or contact Supporter Care:
Telephone +44 (0)20 7012 6400
Fax +44 (0)20 7012 6963
savethechildren.org.uk

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Registered office:
1 St John's Lane,
London,
EC1M 4AR.

