

Read and Discover

Common and Proper Nouns

Lesson 22

The **quetzal** is a bird with brilliant green **plumage** that lives in the rainforests of Central America.

Circle the boldfaced words that name a particular person, place, thing, or idea.

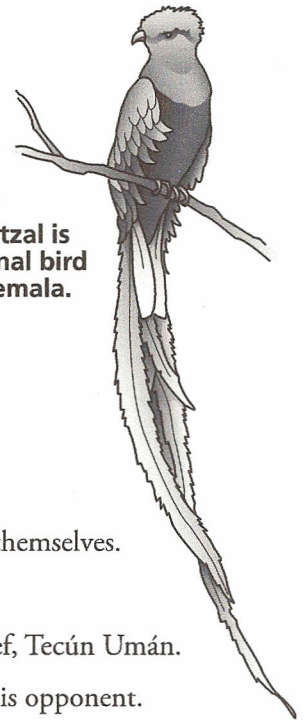
A **common noun** names any person, place, thing, or idea. A **proper noun** names a particular person, place, thing, or idea. Proper nouns must be capitalized. A proper noun made of several words (*United Nations* or *Martin Luther King High School*) is considered one proper noun.

See Handbook Section 15

Part 1

Circle each common noun in the sentences below. Underline each proper noun.

1. Long ago, the Maya considered the quetzal sacred.
2. They believed that the bird would spread its green wings and use them as a shield to protect their warriors in battle.
3. In the years after the voyage of Christopher Columbus, the Spanish tried to conquer the Maya and seize their gold.
4. Pedro de Alvarado led an attack on Quetzaltenango, a city in the mountains of what is now Guatemala.
5. The Maya fought with spears, clubs, and shields woven out of wicker.
6. The Spaniards fought with swords and guns, and wore thick armor to protect themselves.
7. The chief of the Maya fought against Pedro de Alvarado.
8. As the two men fought, a quetzal darted above them, trying to protect the chief, Tecún Umán.
9. Tecún Umán was ill-equipped to defend himself against the superior arms of his opponent.
10. Pedro de Alvarado wounded Tecún Umán seriously, and the leader of the Maya fell to the ground.
11. It is said that at that moment, the quetzal fell upon Tecún Umán and spread its brilliant green plumes over his chest.
12. The next morning at dawn, the people of Quetzaltenango saw the quetzal rise up from the chief's body.
13. The feathers of the breast of the quetzal were stained with the blood of Tecún Umán.
14. Ever since then, all quetzals have had crimson breasts.
15. Today these exotic birds of Central America are endangered.



The quetzal is the national bird of Guatemala.