

Caracoles – Snails

Zapatista, or EZLN, communities in Southern Mexico are now organized around the idea of ‘*caracoles*’. They are communities of indigenous people who govern themselves separately from the Mexican government. The caracoles are made up of five main centers, with the responsibilities of carrying out these eleven duties: “the imparting of justice, a community health system, education, housing, land, work, nutrition, commerce, information and culture, and local transport” – Gustavo E. Castro Soto on

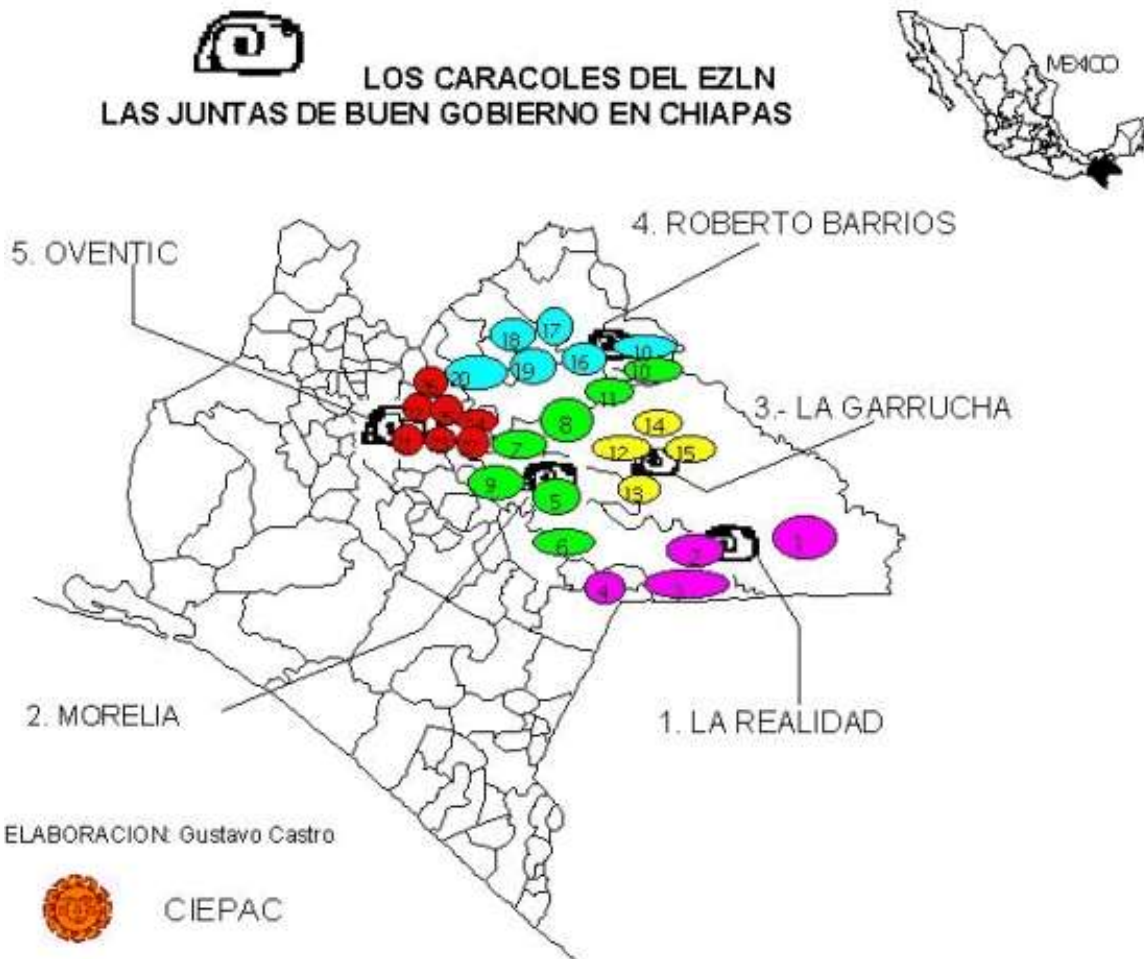
<http://www.ciepac.org/procesodepaz/caracoling.htm> .

Below is a *caracol*.

I. Write the 11 duties of the EZLN Caracoles surrounding the snail.



II. Now, look at a map of Chiapas with the location of the caracoles. What Marxist ideas do you see in the set-up of this system? How does this system serve to make sure that everyone has the “same amount of candy”?



III. Why do you think the Zapatistas chose the image of the *caracoles* in order to represent their community governments?