What are the characteristics of a complex civilization?

Why are the Aztecs, Maya, and Inca considered civilizations?

Where and when did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca civilizations occur?

How were the early complex civilizations of the Americas similar to and different from each other?
Lesson 1:

Early Western Hemisphere Civilizations
Opening
What are the characteristics of modern civilizations?
Vocabulary

What does a society need in order to be considered a civilization?
Vocabulary

civilization - An advanced state of human society, in which a high level of culture, science, industry, and government has been reached.
Characteristics of Civilization

What would be the characteristics of the civilizations that created these places?

Maya  Aztec  Inca
What characteristics of civilization are shown?

Maya  Aztec  Inca
Characteristics of Civilization - B

What characteristics of civilization are shown?

Maya
Aztec
Inca
What characteristics of civilization are shown?

Maya

Aztec

Inca
Characteristics of Civilization - D

What characteristics of civilization are shown?

Aztec
- Ruler & Family
- Governments Officials, Priests, & High Ranking Warriors
- Commoners
- Peasants
- Slaves

Maya
- King or High Priest
- Council
- Nobles
- Merchants & Artisans
- Farmers & Slaves

Inca
- Emperor & Family
- Nobles
- Commoners

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What characteristics of civilization are shown?

Maya

Aztec

Inca
What characteristics of civilization are shown?
Closing

*Let's review the t-chart!*

*What other characteristics can we add after reviewing the slides?*
Exit Ticket

Give three reasons explaining why the ancient Maya, Inca, and Aztec are considered civilizations.

Use evidence to support your response.
What are the characteristics of a complex civilization?

Why are Aztecs, Maya, and Inca considered civilizations?

Where and when did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca civilizations occur?

How were the early complex civilizations of the Americas similar to and different from each other?
Lesson 2:
Early Western Hemisphere Civilizations
Maya, Inca, and Aztec

Which temple aligns with each civilization?
Matched Empires

Aztec

Maya

Inca

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Maya, Inca, and Aztec

Based on the photographs, what information can you gather about the climate of each civilization?
Maya, Inca, and Aztec

Based on the photographs, how would you describe the natural environment of each civilization?

Aztec

Maya

Inca
Maya, Inca, and Aztec

Match the map to the civilization.
Maya, Inca, and Aztec

Match the area to the civilization.
Maya, Inca, and Aztec

Using the key and maps provided in your workbook, color code the locations of each civilization.

Aztec – red
Maya – pink
Inca - purple
Aztec Timeline

Various factors caused human migration in Central America

1195 CE
Capital city of Tenochtitlan founded

1325 CE
Aztecs settle in Mexico

1375 CE
First Aztec ruler chosen

1458 CE
Aztecs reach their height of power

1502 CE
Conquered nearby lands

1519 CE

Cortez arrived from Spain

1522 CE
Tenochtitlan destroyed
Aztec Timeline

- 1100 CE: Aztecs settle in Mexico
- 1195 CE: Various factors caused human migration in Central America
- 1200 CE: First Aztec ruler chosen
- 1325 CE: Aztecs reach their height of power
- 1375 CE: Capital city of Tenochtitlan founded
- 1458 CE: Conquered nearby lands
- 1502 CE: Cortez arrived from Spain
- 1519 CE: Tenochtitlan destroyed
- 1522 CE:
Mayan Timeline

- C. 1500 BCE: Olmec Civilization
- C. 420 BCE: Hieroglyphic writing developed
- C. 750 BCE: Sun-based calendar developed
- 100 CE: Major city of Teotihuacan formed
- 400 CE: Olmec declined
- 500 CE: Other major Mayan cities established
- 900 CE: Conflict increased between Mayan city-states. Trade declined.
- 1224 CE: Northern Cities were abandoned.
- 1224 CE: Southern Maya cities were abandoned.

Teotihuacan dominated trade and culture in Mayan highlands.
Mayan Timeline

- **Olmecs Civilization**
  - C. 1500 BCE
  - Hieroglyphic writing developed

- **Sun based calendar developed**
  - C. 750 BCE

- **Olmecs declined**
  - C. 420 BCE

- **Major city of Teotihuacan formed**
  - 100 CE

- **Teotihuacan dominated trade and culture in Mayan highlands**
  - 150 CE

- **Other major Mayan cities established**
  - 400 CE

- **Conflict increased between Mayan city-states. Trade declined.**
  - 500 CE

- **Northern Cities were abandoned.**
  - 900 CE

- **Southern Maya cities were abandoned.**
  - 1224 CE
Incan Timeline

1150 BCE
Inca people settled in Cuzco region.

1200-1400 CE
Rapid expansion via military conquest in surrounding areas of Cuzco.

1438-1463 CE
Incas expand internally but remain largely self-sufficient.

1471 CE
Further expansion south into Chile, Bolivia and Argentina.

1493 CE
Further military expansion extended the empire in all directions.
Incan Timeline

- **1150 BCE**: Incas expand internally but remain largely self-sufficient.
- **1200-1400 CE**: Inca people settled in Cuzco region.
- **1438-1463 CE**: Rapid expansion via military conquest in surrounding areas of Cuzco.
- **1471 CE**: Further expansion south into Chile, Bolivia and Argentina.
- **1493 CE**: Further military expansion extended the empire in all directions.

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Maya, Inca, and Aztec

Using the key and timeline provided in your workbook, color code the dates of each civilization by indicating its beginning and ending dates on the appropriate timeline. Then draw a rectangle connecting the beginning and ending dates.

*Aztec – red*
*Maya – pink*
*Inca – purple*
Complex Civilizations - Timelines

Aztec Empire

Maya Empire

Inca Empire
Maya, Inca, and Aztec

Aztec – an American Indian people of Central Mexico whose civilization existed around 1100 CE – 1522 CE.

Maya – an American Indian people of southeast Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize, whose civilization existed around 1500 BCE – 1224 CE.

Inca – an American Indian people of the Andes Mountains of South American, whose civilization existed around 1150 BCE – 1533 CE.
Exit Ticket

Draw arrows correctly connecting the names of each civilization with the maps and time periods.

- **Aztec**
  - 1500 BCE-1224 CE

- **Maya**
  - 1100 CE-1522 CE

- **Inca**
  - 1150 BCE-1533 CE
What are the characteristics of a complex civilization?

Why are the Aztecs, Maya, and Inca considered civilizations?

Where and when did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca occur?

How were the early complex civilizations of the Americas similar to and different from each other?
Lesson 3:

Early Western Hemisphere Civilizations
Maya, Inca, and Aztec

How are these three civilizations similar and different?
Civilizations

Review:

What are the characteristics of a civilization?
Vocabulary

**job specialization** – the special line of work that you adopted as your career

**social hierarchy** – a series of ordered groups of people within a society or civilization
Civilizations

You will be separated into 7 groups.

Each group will become an expert on one of the characteristics of civilizations.
Civilizations

Each student in the expert group will be assigned one of the three civilizations we are studying:

- Aztec
- Maya
- Inca
Civilizations

While you are in your small, expert groups:

1. Write notes in your civilization Characteristics Note-Catcher about your specific characteristic in relation to your assigned civilization.

2. One student will share details describing your assigned characteristic in their civilization. Everyone else take notes. Continue until everyone has shared and taken notes. The entire row for your characteristic should now be full of notes.

3. Discuss similarities between the three civilizations in your small group.

4. Discuss differences between the three civilizations in your small group.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics of Civilizations</th>
<th>Mayans</th>
<th>Incas</th>
<th>Aztecs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Specialization (list)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language – written and spoken</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology, Science, and Art</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Hierarchy (draw)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use the Venn Diagram in your workbook to choose two civilizations to compare one characteristic you were not an expert for.
Why do humans modify and adapt to their environments?

What are the climates, vegetation, and elevation of the Aztec, Maya, and Inca civilizations?

How did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca use agriculture to adapt to and modify their environments?

How did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca use shelter and clothing to adapt to and modify their environments?

How did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca use transportation to adapt to and modify their environments?
Lesson 4:
Compare Mesoamerican Civilizations
Geographic and Latitude Maps

What would the climate be for each of our civilizations?
Climate Map – South America

What type of vegetation would you expect to find for the civilization located here?
Climate and Vegetation Maps

Legend
Last Glacial Maximum Vegetation

- Alpine tundra
- Broadleaved temperate evergreen forest
- Dry steppe
- Forest steppe

- Polar and alpine desert
- Savanna
- Semi-arid temperate woodland or scrub
- Steppe-tundra
- Subalpine parkland
- Temperate desert
- Temperate semi-desert
- Temperate steppe grassland

- Tropical extreme desert
- Tropical grassland
- Tropical rainforest
- Tropical semi-desert
- Tropical thorn scrub and scrub woodland
- Tropical woodland

- Ice sheet or other permanent ice
- Lakes and open water
- Main Taiga
- Monsoon or dry forest
- Montane Mosaic
- Montane tropical forest
- Open boreal woodlands

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Climate Map – North America

What type of vegetation would you expect to find for the civilizations located here?
Climate and Vegetation Maps
Elevation Maps

What do you notice about the elevation for each civilization?
Climate Maps

1. Complete the key. Use blue to identify a colder climate, use orange to identify a warm climate, and red to identify a hot climate.

2. Color the maps to show the climate that each civilization lived in.

——— Cold Climate
——— Warm Climate
——— Hot Climate
1. Complete the key by drawing a symbol to represent mountains, a symbol to represent valleys, and a symbol to represent oceans.

2. Use the symbols in your key to show the elevation at which your civilization lived.
Vegetation Map

1. Complete the key by drawing a symbol to represent vegetation; and a symbol to represent grass.
2. Use the symbols in your key to show the type and amount of vegetation shown in each civilization. No symbols means a lack of vegetation or grass; more symbols means more vegetation and grass.
In your workbook, answer:

How can elevation impact climate and vegetation?
Exit Ticket

In your workbook, write a short paragraph comparing the climates, vegetation, and elevation of the Aztec, Maya, and Inca civilizations.
Why do humans modify and adapt to their environments?

What are the climates, vegetation, and elevation of the Aztec, Maya, and Inca civilizations?

How did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca use agriculture to adapt to and modify their environments?

How did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca use shelter and clothing to adapt to and modify their environments?

How did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca use transportation to adapt to and modify their environments?
Lesson 5:
Compare MesoAmerican Civilizations
How can elevation impact climate and vegetation?
How do you define agriculture?
agriculture – the practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products.
Elevation

How might elevation impact agriculture?
Agriculture Picture Match

1. With a partner...

Match the top image of either a Mayan, Inca, or Aztec environment with a lower image that would demonstrate how that civilization might modify their environment to grow crops.
Agriculture Picture Match

2. Based on the pictures, label the top images with the appropriate civilization.
Agriculture Picture Match

3. Share your choices with the class. Be prepared to defend your answer.
Agriculture Articles

1. Read the articles “Inca, Maya, and Aztec”

2. As you read, identify the 3 ways the civilizations modified their environment for the purpose of agriculture within the vocabulary chart.

3. Use the information from the articles to define the types of agriculture identified.
Vocabulary

**terrace farming** – to make or form (sloping land) into a number of level flat areas resembling a series of steps.
Vocabulary

slash and burning – existing vegetation is cut down and burned off before new seeds are sown.
Vocabulary

**chinampas** – chinampa is a type of agriculture which used small, rectangular areas of fertile arable land to grow crops on the shallow lake beds in the Valley of Mexico.
Exit Ticket

How did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca modify or adapt to their environments so that they could grow crops?
Why do humans modify and adapt to their environments?

What are the climates, vegetation, and elevation of the Aztec, Maya, and Inca civilizations?

How did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca use agriculture to adapt to and modify their environments?

How did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca use shelter and clothing to adapt to and modify their environments?

How did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca use transportation to adapt to and modify their environments?
Lesson 6: Compare MesoAmerican Civilizations
Clothing and Shelter

How might the clothing and shelter of each civilization be impacted by their environment?
Clothing and Shelter

Read the articles and examine the images to identify the clothing and shelter for each civilization.
# Clothing and Shelter

Draw and list the materials used for clothing and shelter for each civilization.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How did the environment impact Inca clothing?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How did the environment impact Inca shelters?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Answer how the environment impacted the clothing and shelters of each civilization.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How did the environment impact Inca clothing?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How did the environment impact Inca shelters?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
In your workbook, respond to the following prompt:

Think about our environment. Consider the modifications we made to our clothing and adaptations to our shelters. Explain which civilization more closely resembles our area.
Why do humans modify and adapt to their environments?

What are the climates, vegetation, and elevation of the Aztec, Maya, and Inca civilizations?

How did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca use agriculture to adapt to and modify their environments?

How did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca use shelter and clothing to adapt to and modify their environments?

How did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca use transportation to adapt to and modify their environments?
Lesson 7: Compare MesoAmerican Civilizations
Transportation

1. How do you think each of the three civilizations were able to transport themselves and their goods?

2. What materials do you think they were able to use from their environments for this transportation?
Vocabulary

How would you define transportation?
Vocabulary

transportation – the movement of people, animals, and goods from one place to another

causeways – a raised road across low or wet ground

suspension bridge – a type of bridge suspended (held up) over vast spaces
Transportation

1. Gather into groups of three.

2. One person from each group will read a short passage about one of the three civilizations:
   a. Inca
   b. Maya
   c. Aztec
Transportation

3. While reading your passage, you will highlight/underline information that helps answer the following questions:

   a. How did they transport themselves and their goods?

   b. What resources were used to create their mode of transportation?

   c. What impact does the environment have on your civilization’s mode of transportation?
4. Share the information you learned with your group.

5. Highlight/underline the information shared from your team in the other passages in your workbook.
Transportation

6. Discuss the similarities and differences between each civilization’s transportation.

7. Complete the Venn Diagram to show the similarities and differences noticed from the three civilizations.
Transportation

What are the similarities and differences between the transportation of the three civilizations?
Exit Ticket

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Exit Ticket

1. How did the Aztec, Maya, and Inca adapt to their mode of transportation to their environment?

2. How did they modify their environments for their mode of transportation?
How are complex societies politically organized?

How were the political organizations of the Aztec, Inca, and Maya similar and different?
Lesson 8:
Expansion of Political Control in MesoAmerican Civilizations
Opening

1. How are roads for transportation maintained?

2. Who decides they need to be fixed?
Interview with Ancient Civilization Leaders

1. Separate into groups of four.
2. Each person will read one role in the interview.
3. Read the interview this first time for fluency and to identify unknown terms.
Vocabulary

**political system** – a type of government

**empire** – a government when a single ruler conquers other geographic and/or cultural regions beyond its initial settlements

**city-state** – a city with its own government that controls the surrounding territory
Government

4. Read the interview a second time.
5. Each person will read one role in the interview.
6. Complete the Ancient Civilizations Political Systems note-catcher.
# Political Systems of Ancient Civilizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Inca</th>
<th>Aztec</th>
<th>Maya</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location of Territories</strong></td>
<td>The Western Coat of South America along the Andes Mountains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of Government</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>An empire containing powerful city-states</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How the Ruler Keeps his Subjects Unified</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The ruler picks the people who will help him rule his territory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exit Ticket

How were the political organizations of the Aztec, Inca, and Maya similar and different?
How are complex societies politically organized?

How were the political organizations of the Aztec, Inca, and Maya similar and different?
Lesson 9:
Review
You will read about three different civilizations. Using vocabulary words from the unit (do not simply copy words from the articles):

1. Describe 5 pieces of information that make this civilization complex

2. Describe two ways the civilization modified their environment

3. Describe the government structure/organization
Complex Civilizations

1. Match the civilizations you read about today to a similar ancient civilization that it resembles:
   - Aztec
   - Inca
   - Maya

2. Explain why they are related.
Exit Ticket

Compare your responses with a partner.