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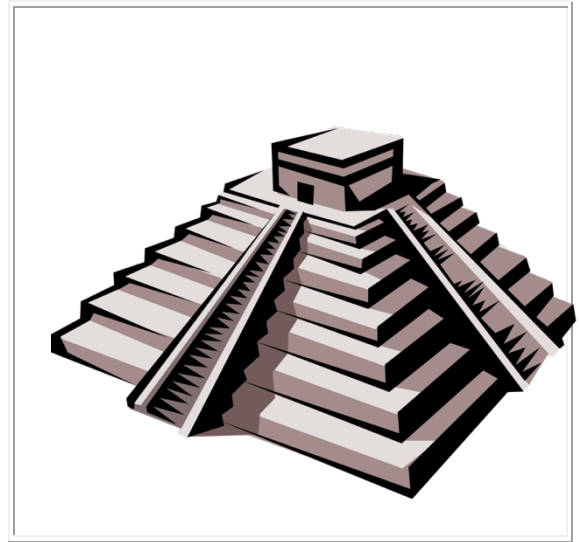


## Early Civilizations Graphic Organizer

Name of Civilization			
Location of Civilization			
Food grown			
Trade items			
Interesting facts			

## Aztecs

This great civilization was located in Mesoamerica (current day Mexico). The capital of Aztec culture was Tenochtitlan. Farming was very important to the Aztecs. They used to irrigate with canals and used terraced slopes to prevent erosion. The Aztecs grew crops in chinampas or floating gardens. These floating gardens were islands of land built in swampy lakes.



Some of their main crops included maize (corn), pumpkins, tomatoes, squash, sweet potatoes, avocados, beans, and chili peppers. Aztecs also grew cocoa beans which was a special drink for the rich people and rulers. It was believed to be the food of the gods.

Aztecs developed many roads which they used for trade. They were able to trade gold, silver, gems, feathers, wood, and cocoa. They also created huge pyramids from stone. These pyramids were used to record the movements of the solar system and for religious purposes.

The Aztec empire was at constant war with other tribes. Aztecs warriors were brave and noble and went to war to honor their gods. They were cruel to their enemies that lost in battle.

Men in the Aztec civilization were responsible for taking care of their family by working hard and paying taxes. Women were responsible for taking care of the children and running the household. The Aztecs had free public schools for all of their children.

## Incas

This great civilization was located in South America (present day Peru, parts of Ecuador, Bolivia, Argentina, and the greater part of Chile). The capital of Incan culture was Cuzco. The Incan empire stretched over 2500 miles from high mountains to low jungle areas. The Incas developed gardens that were cut into the side of mountains. This prevented the water from running down the steep slopes. They also



created aqueducts to carry water far distances. Incan farmers were able to grow a variety of crops, such as peppers, avocados, strawberries, peanuts, corn, potatoes, and beans. The llama was a popular animal used by the Incas. The llama was used for meat, transportation, and clothing.

The Incan civilization developed “freeze-dried food.” Typically, they would freeze-dry potatoes or meat. They left the food out overnight to freeze. The next day it would dry in the sun. They would repeat the process over and over. This freeze-dried food could last up to a year!

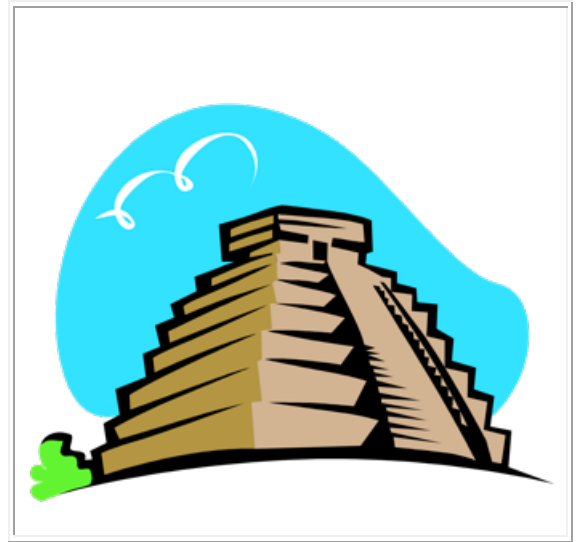
They created roads that went to the different villages for communication and trade. Important messages were sent by using runners. Some popular trading items were handmade clothes and pots.

In the Incan society, it was the job of the father to work and pay the taxes. The mother worked in the house and took care of the children. It was left up to the families to educate their own children.

Machu Picchu was an Incan village that was rediscovered in 1911. This site still contains great examples of granite buildings, temples, and houses.

## Mayans

This great civilization was located in Mesoamerica (current day central and southern Mexico, the Yucatan Peninsula, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, and the westernmost part of Honduras). The Mayan civilization did not have a capital city or one main ruler. Each city governed itself and had its own ruler. They did share a common religion. One of the major accomplishments of the Mayan was to



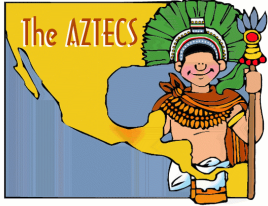


create huge temples or buildings to honor their gods. Chichen Itza was an important trade center for the Mayans. They were able to trade pots, gems, seashells, feathers, and cocoa beans with other travelers.

The Mayan culture had an interesting method of farming called slash and burn. This method cleared the land by cutting down (slashing) plants and burning them. They then planted corn, sunflowers, chili peppers, bananas, beans, and cotton. They would dig holes to collect rain to water their crops.

The Mayans were very interested in keeping track of time. They had three different calendars: a religious one (260 days), one based on the movement of the earth around the sun (365 days), and one that counted long periods of time. They also created a number system that used a series of dots and lines. They were the first to use a zero in counting. Mayans used glyphs (pictures) to write down important information.

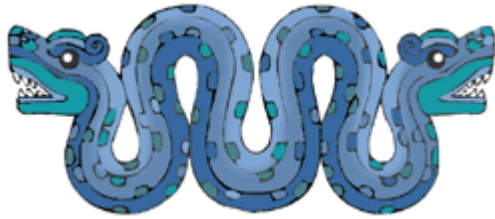
The Mayans also participated in sports. They had a ball court and used a solid rubber ball to aim through rings that were 27 feet off of the ground. No one is sure how the game was played exactly, but we do know that it was probably dangerous.

## Early Civilizations Graphic Organizer Answer Key

Name of Civilization	Aztec	Inca	Maya
Location of Civilization	Mesoamerica	South America	Mesoamerica
Food grown	maize (corn), pumpkins, tomatoes, squash, sweet potatoes, avocados, beans, and chili peppers.	peppers, avocados, strawberries, peanuts, corn, potatoes, and beans	corn, sunflowers, chili peppers, bananas, beans, and cotton
Trade items	gold, silver, gems, feathers, wood, and cocoa	handmade clothes and pots	pots, gems, seashells, feathers, and cocoa beans
Interesting facts	Answers may vary 	Answers may vary 	Answers may vary 

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## Aztecs



## Incas



## Mayans



1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
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21	22	23	24	25
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31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50

