

Achievements of the Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas

What were the significant achievements of the Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas?

PREVIEW

Think of important achievements or advances of the last 50 years. Consider achievements in such areas as science, technology, the arts, and communication. In your notebook, do the following:

- Draw a symbol for at least two of these achievements.
- Label each symbol with the name of the achievement it represents.
- Near each symbol, write a sentence that answers this question: Do you think this achievement will still be used by people 500 to 1,000 years from now? Why or why not?

READING NOTES

Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

solar year

glyph

pictograph

trephination

stele

dialect

suspension bridge

Section 2

Part 1: Mayan Achievements

Read Section 2 and record at least two examples of Mayan achievements in each area listed below. Explain why the examples you chose were significant.

- Science and technology
- Arts and architecture
- Language and writing

Part 2: Mayan Artifacts *(Note: If you are not doing the activity, skip Part 2.)*

Examine the materials at each station, and identify *four* artifacts related to the Mayan civilization. In your notebook, record the following for each artifact: “Artifact ____ on Placard _____ is _____.” Then make a quick sketch of the artifact.

Section 3

Part 1: Aztec Achievements

Read Section 3 and record at least two examples of Aztec achievements in each area listed below. Explain why the examples you chose were significant.

- Science and technology
- Arts and architecture
- Language and writing

Part 2: Aztec Artifacts (*Note: If you are not doing the activity, skip Part 2.*)

Examine the materials at each station, and identify *four* artifacts related to the Aztec civilization. In your notebook, record the following for each artifact: “Artifact ___ on Placard ____ is _____.” Then make a quick sketch of the artifact.

Section 4

Part 1: Incan Achievements

Read Section 4 and record at least two examples of Incan achievements in each area listed below. Explain why the examples you chose were significant.

- Science and technology
- Arts and architecture
- Language and writing

Part 2: Incan Artifacts (*Note: If you are not doing the activity, skip Part 2.*)

Examine the materials at each station, and identify *four* artifacts related to the Incan civilization. In your notebook, record the following for each artifact: “Artifact ___ on Placard ____ is _____.” Then make a quick sketch of the artifact.

P R O C E S S I N G

Design and create a mosaic about Mayan, Aztec, and Incan achievements for your museum’s courtyard. A mosaic is made of odd-shaped fragments, often colored tile or glass. Your mosaic should have at least nine fragments—three for each civilization—which you can make from odd-shaped pieces of construction paper or other similar materials fitted together. Each fragment should include the following:

- a creative and colorful visual symbol to represent one of the important achievements of the Mayas, Aztecs, or Incas.
- a short label that identifies the achievement.
- color-coding to identify the civilization responsible for the achievement. Achievements for the same civilization should be coded the same color .