

# 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 the space below, 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

**If you are doing the activity, complete all questions in the the Reading Notes.**

*(Note: If you are not doing the activity, skip Part 2 for each section.)*

**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**

Examine the materials at each station, and identify four artifacts related to the Mayan civilization. Then write the artifact letter, the placard letter, and label each artifact in the space provided. If appropriate, make a quick sketch of the artifact in the museum “display cases” below.

Artifact \_\_\_\_\_ on Placard \_\_\_\_\_  
is \_\_\_\_\_

Artifact \_\_\_\_\_ on Placard \_\_\_\_\_  
is \_\_\_\_\_

Artifact \_\_\_\_\_ on Placard \_\_\_\_\_  
is \_\_\_\_\_

Artifact \_\_\_\_\_ on Placard \_\_\_\_\_  
is \_\_\_\_\_

**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**

Examine the materials at each station, and identify four artifacts related to the Aztec civilization. Then write the artifact letter, the placard letter, and label each artifact in the space provided. If appropriate, make a quick sketch of the artifact in the museum “display cases” below.

Artifact \_\_\_\_\_ on Placard \_\_\_\_\_  
is \_\_\_\_\_

Artifact \_\_\_\_\_ on Placard \_\_\_\_\_  
is \_\_\_\_\_

Artifact \_\_\_\_\_ on Placard \_\_\_\_\_  
is \_\_\_\_\_

Artifact \_\_\_\_\_ on Placard \_\_\_\_\_  
is \_\_\_\_\_

**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**

Examine the materials at each station, and identify four artifacts related to the Incan civilization. Then write the artifact letter, the placard letter, and label each artifact in the space provided. If appropriate, make a quick sketch of the artifact in the museum “display cases” below.

Artifact _____ on Placard _____ is _____
Artifact _____ on Placard _____ is _____

Artifact _____ on Placard _____ is _____
Artifact _____ on Placard _____ is _____

**P R O C E S S I N G**

In the space below, design and create a planning sketch for 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

Then, attach your final mosaic design on the next page.

## **Mosaic of Achievements**

**READING FURTHER**

**Preparing to Write: Categorizing Information**

Suppose you are a tour guide. You want to take a group to Peru to watch the rebuilding of the Apurimac rope bridge. The chart below lists the types of visitors you want to attract. For each type, list three reasons why he or she might want to sign up for the trip. For example, a scientist might go to learn how the bridge is made.

<b>Reasons to Sign Up for the Trip</b>	
Historian	
Scientist	
Tourist	

Now list objections each type of visitor might have to signing up for the trip. For example, a tourist might say it is too dangerous for his or her children.

<b>Objections to Signing Up for the Trip</b>	
Historian	
Scientist	
Tourist	

### Writing Persuasive Paragraphs

Choose one type of visitor from the charts on the previous page. Write two paragraphs to persuade this person to join your tour. In the first paragraph, give reasons why the person should make the trip. In the second paragraph, offer arguments against the person’s objections. Use the completed charts to help you. Be persuasive. Start your paragraphs with a strong, interesting topic sentence.

Use this rubric to evaluate your paragraphs. Make changes to your paragraphs if you need to.

Score	Description
3	The paragraphs have a strong topic sentence. The first paragraph presents convincing reasons why the person should join the trip. The second paragraph offers clear arguments against the objections. There are no spelling or grammar errors.
2	The paragraphs have a topic sentence. The first paragraph presents reasons why the person should join the trip. The second paragraph offers arguments against the objections. There are some spelling or grammatical errors.
1	The paragraphs lack a topic sentence. The first paragraph lacks convincing reasons why the person should join the trip. The second paragraph lacks arguments against the objections. There are many spelling or grammar errors.



**Timeline Skills**

Analyze the timeline in your book. Also think about what you have learned. Then answer the following questions.

1. For about how many years did the Mayan civilization last?
2. During what period of Mayan civilization were their hieroglyphics developed?
3. What are two of the cultural achievements that occurred during the Classic period of Mayan civilization?
4. How many years passed between the Incas settling in Cuzco and beginning to expand their empire?
5. What was unusual about the location and construction of Tenochtitlán?
6. Why did the Aztec Empire have many enemies?
7. How did the Incas expand their empire so rapidly after 1438?
8. What two things did the Incas build to help them manage their empire?
9. During what century did the Spanish defeat the Aztec and Inca empires?

