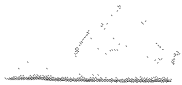


## REVIEW

VIRGINIA STANDARDS  
OF LEARNING WHI.11a, b*Meso-American and  
Andean Societies*

**WHI.11a, b:** The student will demonstrate knowledge of major civilizations of the Western Hemisphere, including the Mayan, Aztec, and Incan by a) describing geographic relationship, with emphasis on patterns of development in terms of climate and physical features; b) describing cultural patterns and political and economic structures.

**Read the summaries to answer questions on the Practice page.**

**The Maya**

- The four classes of society were the ruling class, the nobility, peasants, and slaves. The god-kings of each city-state and their families made up the ruling class. The nobles were scholars, architects, and merchants. The peasants included farmers and laborers. Slaves were prisoners of war or criminals.
- The Maya worshiped more than 160 gods, but they did not believe in a happy afterlife. Mayan rulers performed religious rituals in temples on top of pyramids.
- Kings sometimes declared war on neighboring city-states to gain control of trade routes or to get tribute.
- The Maya's writing system had about 800 hieroglyphic symbols. The Maya recorded much of their history and customs. The Popol Vuh is the Mayan story of creation.

**The Aztecs**

- Aztec society had three main classes. Within the highest noble class, the emperor was at the top, followed by government officials, large landowners, military commanders, and priests. Merchants and artisans formed the middle class. The lowest class included farmers, fishers, and soldiers.
- Aztecs lived in family groups. Men farmed and women cared for the home and children. Boys learned about religion and were taught fighting skills.
- Most Aztec families had small altars in their homes. They believed in about 1,000 gods, mostly agricultural.
- Waging war was important. When taking a village, Aztecs would often kill everyone except warriors, who would become Aztec slaves.
- The Aztecs built large structures. Tenochtitlán had many palaces, temples, and government buildings. The Great Temple in the center was a giant pyramid with two temples on top. The Aztecs also made feather headdresses and jewelry with precious stones.
- The Aztecs used pictures and symbols to represent words and ideas. Their glyphs were also collected in codices, folded sheets of bark or deerskin with colorful pictures.

**The Inca**

- There were two main classes. Nobles ran the government and the army. Commoners included farmers and artisans. There were no slaves.
- The Inca were led by a divine emperor, believed to be the son of Inti, the sun god. They built temples and held daily prayers and rituals.
- The Inca had a military force of almost 200,000 soldiers. Most soldiers were commoners who served a required period of time.

- The Inca were great builders. They constructed more than 14,000 miles of road through the mountains. They built forts, palaces, and temples from huge blocks of stone without using any mortar. Some of their temples were heavily decorated with gold. Incan artisans also used gold to make jewelry. Their weavers used wool from alpacas to create cloth with complicated designs.
- The Inca preserved facts and ideas through oral tradition and a *quipu*, a knotted string device that was used for tracking numeric data.

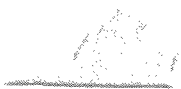
## PRACTICE

VIRGINIA STANDARDS  
OF LEARNING WHI.11a, b*Meso-American and  
Andean Societies*Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 **The slaves in Aztec and Mayan society were mostly**
  - A children.
  - B prisoners of war.
  - C merchants.
  - D women.
  
- 2 **How was Mayan society different from Aztec and Incan society?**
  - F The ruling class and the nobles were separate groups in Mayan society.
  - G Merchants belonged to the lowest class of Mayan society.
  - H Slavery did not exist in Mayan society.
  - J Soldiers belonged to the highest class of Mayan society.
  
- 3 **What did the religions of *all three* cultures (Mayan, Aztec, and Incan) have in common?**
  - A The three cultures worshiped Inti, the god of the sun.
  - B Each society worshiped many gods.
  - C Religion played a minor role in the lives of their people.
  - D All three groups looked forward to a happy afterlife.
  
- 4 **In what way were the governments of the Maya and Inca similar?**
  - F They were both led by divine rulers.
  - G They both controlled most aspects of people's lives.
  - H Both governments included elected representatives.
  - J Both groups were ruled by warrior-kings.
  
- 5 **In the Incan tradition, military service was**
  - A voluntary.
  - B performed by slaves.
  - C required of commoners.
  - D a highly paid occupation.
  
- 6 **Which statement accurately reflects *one* difference among the Aztecs, Maya, and Inca?**
  - F Unlike the Aztecs and Maya, the Inca concentrated on building an extensive network of roads.
  - G Unlike the Inca and Maya, the Aztecs built large pyramids and temples.
  - H Unlike the Aztecs, the Maya and Inca had an established written tradition.
  - J Unlike the Aztecs and Maya, the Inca were not associated with building many large cities.



REVIEW



VIRGINIA STANDARDS  
OF LEARNING WHI.11a, b

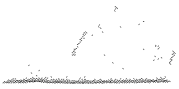
# Geography and the Mayan, Aztec, and Incan Empires

WHI.11a, b: The student will demonstrate knowledge of major civilizations of the Western Hemisphere, including the Mayan, Aztec, and Incan by a) describing geographic relationship, with emphasis on patterns of development in terms of climate and physical features; b) describing cultural patterns and political and economic structures.

Read the chart to answer questions on the Practice page.

Geography	Impact
<b>Mayan Civilization (250–900)</b>	
<p><b>Location:</b> The Mayan empire stretched from southern Mexico to northern Central America.</p> <p><b>Landforms:</b> Lowlands are located in the north; the highlands are in the south.</p> <p><b>Climate and Vegetation:</b> The lowlands include dry scrub forest and fertile rain forest. The mountainous region is cool and dry.</p>	<p>Farmers grew many crops. Terraces and irrigation canals increased land available for farming. This led to population growth and specialized labor. A class system developed. Cities grew from villages and became centers of religious ceremonies and trade.</p>
<b>Aztec Civilization (1200–1521)</b>	
<p><b>Location:</b> The Aztecs built an empire in the Valley of Mexico in central Mexico. Their first site was on an island in the middle of a large lake.</p> <p><b>Landforms:</b> The Valley of Mexico is a mountain basin 7,500 feet above sea level. It has several large, shallow lakes.</p> <p><b>Climate and Vegetation:</b> The valley is fertile. A rainy season begins in May and ends in September.</p>	<p>Aztecs developed farming techniques that allowed them to raise crops on human-made islands. Tenochtitlán was the center of the empire. Bridges and causeways connected it to the mainland. The city had as many as 400,000 people by the early 1500s. They used trade to obtain goods they could not get locally.</p>
<b>Incan Civilization (1400–1532)</b>	
<p><b>Location:</b> The center of the Incan empire was in a valley in the Andes Mountains. The empire extended along the west coast of South America.</p> <p><b>Landforms:</b> The central Andes have mountains, valleys, and highland plateaus.</p> <p><b>Climate and Vegetation:</b> Rain forest covers areas in the northern Andes. Fertile valleys between mountains are in the center. Elevation affects temperatures and land use.</p>	<p>The Inca terraced land and built irrigation systems to add farmland. They raised animals in higher elevations that were too cool and dry for crops. They built mountain roads, connecting parts of the empire. Runners called <i>chasquis</i> carried messages along the roads. Trade was limited to local and seasonal exchange. Lack of farmland and suitable sites prevented development of large urban centers.</p>

## PRACTICE

VIRGINIA STANDARDS  
OF LEARNING WHI.11a, b*Geography and the Mayan,  
Aztec, and Incan Empires*Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 How did the location of the Mayan empire influence its development?**
  - A The Maya developed trade to compensate for poor land.
  - B Fertile land led to farming surpluses and population growth.
  - C Lack of level land restricted the growth of large cities.
  - D The need to hunt and gather food kept Mayan society undeveloped.
  
- 2 How did the Aztecs adapt to the conditions of their first settlement in the middle of the lake?**
  - F They became hunters, not farmers.
  - G They began a fishing industry.
  - H They built islands to raise crops.
  - J They raided neighboring groups.
  
- 3 What role did trade play in the Aztec civilization?**
  - A The Aztecs raised money by taxing all of the trade within their empire.
  - B The Aztecs engaged in some local trade.
  - C Trade was limited and controlled by the emperor.
  - D The Aztecs developed a widespread trading network.
  
- 4 Where was the Incan empire located?**
  - F in the Andes along the west coast of South America
  - G between southern Mexico and northern Central America
  - H in central South America
  - J along the coastal plains on the eastern edge of South America
  
- 5 Compared to that of the Aztec and Mayan cultures, Incan agriculture**
  - A was more successful.
  - B used more sophisticated techniques, such as terracing.
  - C depended more on the raising of animals.
  - D was less limited by the environment.
  
- 6 Which statement characterizes the urban culture of Aztec, Mayan, and Incan civilizations?**
  - F All three civilizations encouraged the growth of large urban centers.
  - G Urban centers were more important to the Inca than to the Aztec or Mayan cultures.
  - H Compared to the cities of the Mayan and Incan civilizations, the Aztec cities were small.
  - J In contrast to the Incas, the Mayas and the Aztecs had large urban centers.