

In this unit, students will learn how large civilizations, such as the Maya, Aztec, and Inca, developed in the Americas before the arrival of Europeans.

What's the story?

Students will explore the **geography, climate, innovations, discoveries**, and overall **history** of each of these civilizations.

What will my student learn?

Students will be exposed to a variety of **complex texts**. They will learn about the way of life of the **Maya, Aztec, and Inca**, and will read **myths** from these ancient civilizations.

Students will integrate what they have learned about the civilizations as they review the **stages in the writing process** and engage in an **informative writing piece**. They will also **collaborate** with their classmates and **share** their **ideas** as they develop and deepen their understanding of these literacy skills.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. Why did so many civilizations start around rivers?
2. How did the Maya use the plants and animals in the rain forest?
3. Can you tell me about the different types of education that boys of different social classes in the Aztec Empire received?

Follow up: What did each type of education prepare them to do?

4. Can you compare and contrast the Maya and the Aztec civilizations?

Follow up: What was the same about them? What was different?

5. What were some of the things the Inca did to create a network of roads?

Follow up: Why was it so important for them to have this network?