TEACHER KEY · LESSON WORKSHEET · GRADE 6 · 6.H.1-6.H.3 · 6.H.7 · 6.H.13

Early Civilizations of the Americas

Fill in each part when its number appears on the slide.

PART 1 · TARGET

I can compare the Maya, Aztec, and Inca and explain how geography shaped their achievements.

PART 2 · WARM-UP

1. What does a group of people need to build a large city?
   Key: Examples: food supply/farming, water, leaders/government, workers, trade.
2. How could people farm on a steep mountain or in a swampy lake?
   Key: Build flat steps (terraces) on mountains; build raised garden beds in lakes.
3. How can we learn about people who lived 1,000 years ago?
   Key: Artifacts, ruins, writings, codices, and descendants' traditions.

PART 3 · PREDICTION

How would you grow food on a steep mountain?

Circle one: [ ] Cut flat steps into it [ ] Move somewhere else [ ] Only hunt and fish

PART 4 · VOCABULARY

Word	Meaning
Civilization	A complex society with cities, government, specialized jobs, and a system of writing or records.
Chinampa	An Aztec floating garden built in a shallow lake.
Terrace farming	Cutting flat steps into mountainsides to farm (Inca).
Quipu	Knotted strings the Inca used to keep records.

PART 5 · THE MAYA

The Maya built CITY-STATES, used GLYPHS to write, and understood the concept of ZERO.

Check: What number is 2 bars and 3 dots?

Answer: _____

Key: 13. 5 + 5 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 13.

PART 6 · THE AZTEC

The Aztec capital was TENOCHTITLAN. They farmed on CHINAMPAS in the lake.

Check: How did the Aztec grow food in a lake?

Circle one: (A) Irrigation from the Nile (B) They did not farm (C) Chinampas (floating gardens) (D) Terraces

Key: (C) Chinampas (floating gardens). Chinampas were built-up garden beds.

PART 7 · THE INCA

The Inca farmed on TERRACES and kept records on QUIPUS.

Check: What number does the quipu cord show?

Answer: _____

Key: 24. 2 tens and 4 ones = 24.

PART 8 · ENCOUNTER AND CONQUEST

Conquistadors had horses and steel, but DISEASES like SMALLPOX killed millions.

Check: Which factor killed the most Native people?

Circle one: (A) Disease (B) Steel swords (C) Horses (D) Cannons

Key: (A) Disease. Smallpox and other diseases spread before and during the conquest.

PART 9 · WORKED EXAMPLE

1. Venn diagram: Maya | Aztec | Inca.
2. Maya and Aztec: stone pyramids and temples.
3. Inca only: roads, rope bridges, and quipus.
4. All three (center): farming adapted to geography, and a strong ruler tied to religion.

PART 10 · WE DO

Compare how the Aztec and Inca solved the problem of farming difficult land.

Answer: Chinampas (Aztec) and terraces (Inca)

PART 11 · YOU DO

Which achievement shows the Inca had a highly organized government?

Circle one: (A) A 365-day calendar (B) Pyramids in the rainforest (C) Quipus used to record census counts and tribute (D) Floating gardens

Key: (C) Quipus used to record census counts and tribute. Counting people and taxes for a huge empire requires organized records.

PART 12 · WORK TIME: ARTIFACTS OF THE AMERICAS

Write each code piece as you earn it: Exhibit A: G Exhibit B: L Exhibit C: Y Exhibit D: P Exhibit E: H

Final code: GLYPH

PART 13 · WRAP-UP

Was your prediction in Part 3 right? One thing I learned today:

Key: Artifacts, ruins, writings, codices, and descendants' traditions.