



Three Civilizations Museum Sort

Mission: The new exhibit opens tomorrow, but every artifact label is scrambled! Use what you know about each civilization to sort the cards, including the traits all three shared.

Big question: How were the Maya, Aztec, and Inca similar and different?

★ Warm-up: Venn warm-up

Alike or different?

A cat and a dog ✓ **Alike: pets. Different: sounds, size.**

What goes in the middle of a Venn diagram? ✓ **Traits both share.**

Key vocabulary

Artifact	An object made by people long ago.
Compare	Tell how things are alike.
Contrast	Tell how things are different.
Empire	Many lands and peoples under one ruler.

1 Box 1

Sort the exhibit

In the simulator: Sort all 11 artifact cards correctly.

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Records

The Maya used glyphs and the Inca used quipus. What does this show?

- ☐ Civilizations found different ways to keep records ☐ The Inca could not count
☐ Glyphs and quipus were the same thing

✓ **Civilizations found different ways to keep records**

Time and place

Why is it wrong to say these three civilizations "lived at the same time and place"?

- ☐ They were centuries and thousands of miles apart ☐ They were all in Mexico ☐ They all fell in 1492

✓ **They were centuries and thousands of miles apart**

3 Box 3

Compare and contrast

Compare and contrast two civilizations.

Alike

Look for: Names civilizations; at least 12 words

Different

Look for: Names a specific difference; at least 14 words

4 Box 4

Legend: write a label Legend only

Write a museum label (3–4 sentences) for one artifact: what it is, which civilization made it, and why it matters.

Look for: at least 35 words



Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How were the Maya, Aztec, and Inca similar and different?

Look for: The Maya (city-states, glyphs, zero, calendars), Aztec (island capital, chinampas, tribute), and Inca (Andes empire, roads, quipus, terraces) were different civilizations in different times and places, but all adapted farming to their geography and built great stone architecture.



Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	1F9-E
 Investigator	1EA-I
 Legend	VT4-L



Watch for these misconceptions

- "The Maya, Aztec, and Inca lived at the same time and place." They were centuries and thousands of miles apart.
- "The Maya disappeared." Millions of Maya people live in Mexico and Central America today.
- "The Spanish won only because of weapons." Disease and alliances with other Native groups mattered most.