

Table of Contents

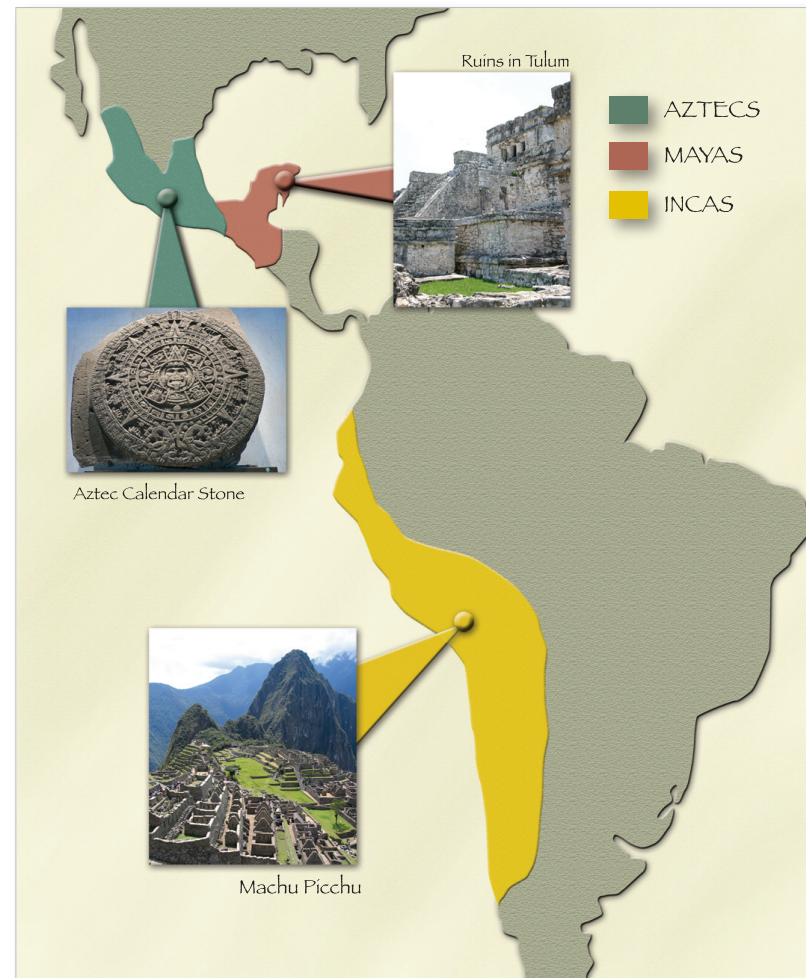
The Medley in the Ancient Americas	4–5
The Mayas	
Meet the Mayas	6–7
Budding Beliefs	8–9
Take Me Out to the Ball Court	10–11
Mayan Metropolis	12–13
The Incas	
Introducing the Incas	14–15
Secrets from the Past	16–17
Incas Rule!	18–19
The Aztecs	
Announcing the Aztecs	20–21
Gods, Myths, and Priests	22–23
Living the Aztec Life	24–25
Where’s the Leader?	26–27
The Spanish End the Three.....	28–29
Glossary	30
Index.....	31
Image Credits	32

The Medley in the Ancient Americas

In so many ways, the ancient Americans achieved amazing feats. Three of these groups were the Mayas (MY-uhz), Incas (ING-kuhz), and Aztecs (AZ-teks).

These three groups have many things in common. All of them depended on farming to survive. They worshipped many gods. Their art was skillfully detailed. And, the stonework on their buildings was precise.

They also did some things that made them distinct from one another. While the rest of the world borrowed from old languages, the Mayas created their own. Much of what we know about them comes from their



◀ Map showing three of the most important ancient American groups

Unearthing the Aztecs

Today, many Aztec ruins lay unseen under cities in Mexico. However, some pyramids can still be seen.

Traveling to the Mayas

If you want to visit the Mayan ruins, you have to go to Honduras, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, or southern Mexico.

Trekking the Incas

Each year many tourists go to Peru to see the Incan ruins. Some tourists like to hike up the mountains just as the Incas once did.

hieroglyphic (HI-ruh-glif-ik) writing. The Incas constructed more than 10,000 miles (16,000 km) of roads. This made it easy to send messages to all parts of their large empire. Swift messengers sprinted these roads like a relay team. The Aztecs built a city on an island in the middle of a lake. People moved around their city in canoes.

All three groups ended when the Spanish landed in the Americas.