

Architecture and Urban Development Student Page

Introduction:

The Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations rose at different times in history; however, all built extraordinary cities and ritual (religious) complexes. They did this without the use of the wheel or metal tools. Rather, through careful planning and the use of locally available materials, these peoples accomplished feats of engineering and architecture that rival those of civilizations in the Old World. In this lesson you will examine images of Maya, Aztec, and Inca ruins that provide evidence of this achievement.

Note: All sites in this lesson can be found at <http://www.socialstudies.com/ancientlinks.html>.

Directions:

Tikal: North and Central Acropolis

Go to http://mayaruins.com/tikal/Tikal_InnerMap.html

Click on the red arrows to view images of the buildings in the square.

1. What do the buildings appear to be made out of?
2. How tall does Temple II appear to be? (You can estimate that the people in the image are 5–6 feet tall).
3. Think about how the Mayans might have built Tikal. Does it appear that someone took care to plan the site? Would someone have had to be in charge? Why or why not? Explain your reasoning.
4. Ordinary Mayan men and women might have worked for pay to build Tikal, except that the Mayans did not use money in their culture. If they did not get paid, why might ordinary Mayan men or women have worked so hard to build this city? Come up with at least two reasons.

The Alonso Map of Tenochtitlàn

Go to <http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/history/lavender/graphics/tenuxtltlan.jpg>

Go to http://geoimages.berkeley.edu/geoimages/Alonso_Map/NavAlonso/alonso.html

At the second site you can click on specific areas of the map to study them more closely. Continue to select areas to achieve more detailed views of particular sections.

Study the map of Tenochtitlàn made by Alonso in about 1550–1560.

5. What areas of the map are water? What areas are land? How can you tell?

6. Identify the kinds of buildings you can see on the map.

7. Some of the lines crossing the map are brown, while others are blue. What does this suggest about the kinds of transportation networks the Aztecs built in Tenochtitlàn?

8. What are people illustrated on the map doing? What does this suggest about how people sustained themselves (lived) in Tenochtitlàn?

9. Based on your study of the map, write a 3–4 sentence description of Tenochtitlàn.

Foundation of Tenochtitlàn

www.altavista.mirror/fundaron.html

11. Where did his heart fall? What grew there? What is there now?
12. What should the person having the dream do? What does "Tenochtitlàn" mean?
13. Based on your study of this short text, form a hypothesis about the importance of Tenochtitlàn to the Aztecs.

Images of Machu Picchu

Go to <http://www.sfu.ca/archaeology/museum/laarch/tour/machu/mp1a.jpg>

Study the image on this page.

14. Does Machu Picchu seem to be at a low or a high altitude? Explain your reasoning.

Go to <http://www.sfu.ca/archaeology/museum/laarch/tour/machu/mp2a.jpg>.

15. What materials did the Inca use in building this temple? Describe its form (shape).

Study these images:

- <http://www.sfu.ca/archaeology/museum/laarch/tour/machu/mp3a.jpg>
- <http://www.sfu.ca/archaeology/museum/laarch/tour/machu/mp3b.jpg>
- <http://www.sfu.ca/archaeology/museum/laarch/tour/machu/mp5.jpg>

16. Describe the way the Incas built on and around the natural rock.

6

Go to <http://www.sfu.ca/archaeology/museum/laarch/tour/machu/mo4a.jpg>.

17. Estimate the number of residences (houses) in this area of Machu Picchu. Based on your estimate, does Machu Picchu seem to be a large, bustling city like Tenochtitlàn? Why or why not?

18. Based on your study of these images, explain whether you would agree or disagree with the following statement: "The Inca were master engineers and craftsmen."