ECHOLS MIDDLE SCHOOL CONTINUITY ASSIGNMENT

ACADEMIC HELP LINE: Open Monday-Thursday from 8:30-11:30

WEEK 5
GRADE 8
SUBJECT World History

I CAN

Students are able to

• Understand textual evidence of primary and secondary sources
• Describe how geography influenced culture
• Describe the influence on art, architecture, language, and religion.

ACTIVITY:

Chapter 16: The Early Americas Assessments

• Section 1: The Maya
• Section 2: The Aztecs
• Section 3: The Incas

RESOURCES/WEBSITES/DIRECTIONS TO ACCESS:

• Read each section and answer the questions that go along with it.

ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT (NO TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED):
The Early Americas

Section 1

MAIN IDEAS
1. Geography helped shape the lives of the early Maya in Mesoamerica.
2. During the Classic Age, the Maya built great cities linked by trade.
3. Maya culture was influenced by social structure, religion, and achievements in science and the arts.
4. The decline of Maya civilization began in the 900s, for reasons that are still unclear.

Key Terms and People
- maize corn
- Pacal Maya king who ruled the city of Palenque in the 600s
- observatories buildings designed to study astronomy and view the stars

Academic Vocabulary
- aspect a part of something
- rebel to fight against authority

Section Summary

GEOGRAPHY AND THE EARLY MAYA Mesoamerica extends from the central region of Mexico to Central America. The Maya (MY-uh) civilization developed here around 1000 BC. Thick forests covered the area, so the Maya had cleared the area to farm. They grew maize, or corn, and beans, squash, and avocados. By AD 200, the Maya were building large cities.

THE CLASSIC AGE
Maya civilization was at its peak between AD 250 and 900, a period called the Classic Age. There were more than more than 40 Maya city-states. They traded crops, wood, jade, and obsidian.

The Maya built large stone pyramids, temples, and palaces. Some buildings honored local kings. A temple built in the city of Palenque (pah-LENG-kay) honored the king Pacal (puh-KAHL). The Maya built canals to bring water to the cities. They also shaped hillsides into flat terraces for crops.

MAYA CULTURE
The Maya had a complex social structure. Kings held the highest position. Priests, warriors, and merchants made up the upper class. Most Maya belonged to lower class farming families. Maya farmers had to give rulers some of their crops and goods such as cloth and salt. They also had to help build temples and other buildings.

The Maya worshipped many gods. Each god represented a different aspect of life. The Maya tried to keep the gods happy by giving them blood.

Maya achievements in art, architecture, math, science, and writing were remarkable. They built observatories for priests to study the stars. They learned that the year had about 365 days. The Maya developed a complex number system and a writing system. They also made jade and gold jewelry.

DECLINE OF MAYA CIVILIZATION
Maya civilization began to collapse in the 900s. They stopped building large buildings and left the cities for the countryside. Historians are not sure why this happened, but there are several theories.

Some historians believe that Maya farmers kept planting the same crop over and over, which weakened the soil. This may have caused more competition and war between the cities. The people may have decided to rebel against their kings’ demands. There probably were many factors that led to the decline of the Maya civilization.
DIRECTIONS  Read each sentence and choose the correct term from the word bank to replace the underlined phrase. Write the term in the space provided and then define the term in your own words.

1. The Maya’s religious beliefs led them to make impressive advances in science using maize, or buildings to study astronomy. ___________________________
   Your definition: ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

2. The Maya, an American Indian people living in Mesoamerica around 1000 BC, grew a variety of crops, including corn, or observatories. ___________________
   Your definition: ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

3. Palenque was a Maya king who built a great temple to record his achievements. ___________________________
   Your definition: ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

4. One of the most powerful Maya cities was Pacal, located in what is now Mexico. ___________________________
   Your definition: ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
The Early Americas

Section 2

MAIN IDEAS
1. The Aztecs built a rich and powerful empire in central Mexico.
2. Life in the empire was shaped by social structure, religion, and warfare.
3. Hernán Cortés conquered the Aztec Empire in 1521.

Key Terms and People
causeways  raised paths across water or wet ground
Hernán Cortés  Spanish leader who conquered the Aztec Empire
conquistadors  Spanish soldiers and explorers
Moctezuma II  Aztec ruler at the time of the Spanish conquest

Academic Vocabulary
motive  reason for doing something

Section Summary
THE AZTECS BUILD AN EMPIRE
The first Aztecs were poor farmers from northern Mexico who migrated south. Other tribes had taken farmland, so the Aztecs settled on a swampy island in Lake Texcoco (tays-KOH-koh). In 1325, they built their capital here.

War was key to the Aztecs’ rise to power. The Aztec warriors conquered many towns and made tribute payments of cotton, gold, or food. The Aztecs also controlled the trade network.

The Aztecs’ power and wealth was most visible in the capital, Tenochtitlán (tay-NAWCH-teet-LAN) built three causeways to connect the island to the shore and floating gardens on the lake. At its peak, it was home to about 200,000 people. The city had temples, a palace, and a busy market.

LIFE IN THE EMPIRE
Aztec society had clearly defined social classes. The king was the most important person. He was in charge of law, trade, tribute, and warfare. The nobles, including tax collectors and judges, helped the king with his duties. Below the king and nobles were priests and warriors. Priests had great influence over the Aztecs. Warriors were respected for conquering new lands. Below priests and warriors were merchants and artisans, and then farmers and laborers. Slaves were lowest in society.

The Aztecs believed that gods ruled all parts of life and sacrifice was necessary to keep the gods happy. In rituals, priests cut themselves to give blood to the gods and sacrificed prisoners.

The Aztecs studied astronomy. Their calendar was much like the Maya calendar. The Aztecs had a rich artistic tradition and their own writing system. They also had a strong oral tradition.

CORTÉS CONQUERS THE AZTECS
In 1519 Spanish explorer Hernán Cortés (er-NAHN kawr-TAYS) led soldiers called conquistadors into Mexico. Their motives were to seek gold, claim land, and spread their religion. The Aztec ruler, Moctezuma II (MAWK-tay-SOO-mah), thought Cortés was a god. Moctezuma sent Cortés many gifts, including gold. Wanting more gold, Cortés took Moctezuma prisoner. Enraged, the Aztecs attacked the Spanish. They drove the Spanish out of the city, but Moctezuma was killed.

To defeat the Aztecs, the Spanish allied with tribes who resented the Aztec rulers. The Spanish had better weapons, including guns and cannons, and rode horses, which were unknown in the Americas. The Spanish also carried diseases like smallpox that killed many Aztecs. In 1521 the Spanish conquered Tenochtitlán. This brought the Aztec empire to an end.
DIRECTIONS  Write a word or phrase that means the same as the term given.

1. causeway ________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

2. conquistadors _____________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

3. Hernán Cortés ____________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

4. Moctezuma II _____________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

DIRECTIONS  Use the terms causeway, conquistadors, Hernán Cortés, and Moctezuma II to write a letter from the point of view of a citizen of Tenochtitlán during the Spanish conquest of Mexico.
The Early Americas

Section 3

MAIN IDEAS
1. The Incas created an empire with a strong central government in South America.
2. Life in the Inca Empire was influenced by social structure, religion, and the Incas’ cultural achievements.
3. Francisco Pizarro conquered the Incas and took control of the region in 1537.

Key Terms and People
Pachacuti ruler who expanded the Inca Empire in the mid-1400s
Quechua the language of the Incas
masonry stonework
Atahualpa the last Inca ruler
Francisco Pizarro Spanish conquistador leader who conquered the Incas

Academic Vocabulary

distribute to divide among a group of people

Section Summary
THE INCAS CREATE AN EMPIRE
While the Aztecs rose in Mesoamerica, the Incas were building an empire in South America. The Incas began as a small tribe high in the Andes. They built their capital, Cuzco, in modern-day Peru. In the mid-1400s, the ruler Pachacuti (pah-chah-KOO-tee) led the Incas to expand their territory. By the early 1500s, the Inca Empire stretched from northern Ecuador to central Chile.

To rule this empire of 12 million people, the Incas formed a strong central government. The Incas leaders of conquered areas with new people loyal to the Inca government. The Incas established an of language, Quechua (KE-chuh-wuh). The Incas paid taxes in the form of labor. This labor tax system mita (MEE-tah). There were no merchants or markets. Instead, government officials would distribute goods food and clothing.

LIFE IN THE INCA EMPIRE
Inca society had two main social classes. The king, priests, and government officials were the upper class. The upper class lived in Cuzco and did not pay the labor tax. The lower class included farmers, artisans, and servants. Most Incas were farmers. They could not own more goods than they needed.

The Inca religion was based on the belief that Inca rulers were related to the sun god and never really died. Inca ceremonies often included sacrifice of llamas, cloth, or food. They also believed certain natural landforms had magical powers.

The Incas are known for their masonry, or stonework. They built massive buildings and a network of roads. Inca artisans made beautiful pottery, jewelry, and textiles. The Incas had no written language. Instead, they kept records with cords and passed down stories and songs orally.

PIZARRO CONQUERS THE INCAS
In the 1520s civil war broke out between an Inca ruler’s two sons, Atahualpa (ah-tah-WAHL-pah) and Huáscar (WAHS-kahr). Atahualpa won, but the war had weakened the Inca army. On his way to be crowned king, Atahualpa heard that conquistadors led by Francisco Pizarro were in Peru. When Atahualpa came to meet with them, the Spanish captured him. They attacked and killed thousands of Inca soldiers. The Incas brought gold and silver to offer for Atahualpa’s return. But instead the Spanish killed him. The Spanish defeated the Incas and ruled their lands for the next 300 years.
DIRECTIONS Use the terms Atahualpa, masonry, Pachacuti, Francisco Pizarro, and Quechua to write a summary of what you learned in the section.

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Week 4 Answer Key

Guinevere and the Round Table

ANALYZING LITERATURE
1. so that Guinevere will willingly consent to marry Arthur and won’t know who he is
2. possible answer: she will fall in love with the gardening boy and later realize it is King Arthur

Biography Blanche of Castile

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?
1. Possible answers: Blanche was a good negotiator, an effective diplomat, and a great leader.
2. Possible answers: Blanche brought stability to France by putting down rebellions. She replaced rebel noble groups with commoners. She organized local militias. She established truces with England and southern France.
3. Accept reasonable answers.

Chapter Review

REVIEWING VOCABULARY, TERMS, AND PEOPLE
1. Saladin
2. St. Francis of Assisi
3. Holy Land
4. St. Thomas Aquinas
5. Magna Carta

COMPREHENSION AND CRITICAL THINKING
1. Hundred Years’ War
2. popes and kings
3. Inquisition
4. Crusades
5. Friars

REVIEWING THEMES
1. society and culture
2. religion