STUDY GUIDE - Maya, Aztec, and Inca

7.56 Explain the impact of geographic features and climate on the agricultural practices and settlement of the Maya, Aztec, and Incan civilizations.

7.57 Describe the social, economic, and political characteristics of the Maya, Aztec, and Incan civilizations, including: oral traditions, class structures, religious beliefs, slavery, and advancements (e.g., astronomy, mathematics, and calendar

	Maya	Aztec	Inca
Location	Yucatan Peninsula – Mesoamerica	Mesoamerica – center of present day Mexico	South America along the Andes Mountains
Capital	Numerous - Tikal, Chichen Itza, Copan, Palenque etc	Tenochtitlan	Cuzco
Economy & Trade	Farming – Slash-and-Burn farming Rich Volcanic soil helped with farming.	Farming – Chinampas = floating gardens	Terrance Farming with complex Irrigation systems
Religion	Polytheistic -many gods, some human sacrifices	Polytheistic Many gods, sun god most important, human sacrifices Warriors captured in battle were taken to temple and sacrificed to their gods.	Polytheistic - Many gods, some human sacrifice
Roles of People	Class system – King (High Priest); Council of priests; Nobles; merchants and artisans; farmers; slaves (had slaves)	Class system – King (High Priest); Council of priests; Nobles; merchants and artisans; farmers; slaves Had slaves	Two main social classes: Upper Class Lower Class Did not have slaves
Government	City-states rule themselves Well organized city states each with a king, war was for tribute	Empire united under a single ruler Centralized government and specialized workforce, war was for captives and tribute Constant warfare	King at the center of empire, War is for conquest Central government, collective labor work force, everybody worked

STUDY GUIDE - Maya, Aztec, and Inca continued

	Maya	Aztec	Inca
Art and Architecture	Pottery with painting, pyramid temples Designs in the stonework	Pyramid stone temples, aqueducts, palaces, bridges, causeways, and floating gardens Art - Primarily a form of religious expression honoring their gods	Incan art was practical - pottery and cloth – dyed yarn bright colors Excelled at stonemasonry Cities designed to blend into the environment
Technology and Achievements	Hieroglyphic alphabet Wrote books, math, monumental architecture, 2 calendars 365 day calendar Used the number zero Were great astronomers	Built monumental architecture, chinampas, calendar Written language	Terraces, complex irrigation systems, medicine, brain surgery, monumental architecture, built 1000s of miles of roads, Suspension rope bridges Quipu used to keep numeric records
FACTS	Built some of the biggest pyramids in the world. Played team sports Chocolate Made rubber balls	chewing gum and popcorn Tenochtitlan was one of the largest cities in the world by 1500 Chocolate	Unlike the Mayans and Aztecs, the Incas were quite agriculturally advanced, having developed a system of irrigation to rival their European counterparts.