

GII-Latin American Civilizations

Maya, Aztec, Inca

- All had complex civilizations before the arrival of the Europeans
- They all made achievements in arts, architecture, sciences, math and astrology
- They all adapted to their geography to develop complex cultures
- Examples: Aztec Chinampas (floating gardens) and Inca terrace farming
- The Inca lived in the Andes Mountains
- They made extensive systems of roads
- Maya: achievements in math and sciences: concept of zero

Sample Questions

1. The Gupta civilization (4th–6th centuries) and the Maya civilization (4th–10th centuries) were similar in that both

- (1) built temple complexes and developed the concept of zero
- (2) eliminated standing armies and introduced an aristocracy
- (3) developed early democratic systems
- (4) were conquered by European imperialists

2. One similarity between the Mongols of Central Asia and the Incas of South America was that both societies

- (1) developed cash-crop farming
- (2) adapted to difficult physical environments
- (3) based their wealth on the slave trade
- (4) practiced monotheistic religions

3. The Aztec use of the calendar and the Maya writing system both illustrate that pre-Columbian cultures in the Americas

- (1) traded extensively with Africa
- (2) flourished prior to European contact
- (3) declined because of invasion and disease
- (4) converted others to Islam

4. A study of Aztec, Maya, and Inca agricultural systems would show that these civilizations

- (1) relied on mechanized agricultural techniques
- (2) carried on extensive food trade with each other
- (3) adapted to their environments with creative farming techniques
- (4) relied on a single-crop economy

5. How did the Inca adapt to their physical environment?

- (1) They built large fishing fleets to feed their populations.
- (2) They built footbridges that connected their roads across the Andes.
- (3) They established extensive trade agreements with Europe.
- (4) They raised cattle and horses on the pampas.

6. Which geographic factor had the most influence on the development of Inca society and Japanese society?

- (1) frequent monsoons
- (2) mountainous topography
- (3) large deserts
- (4) tropical climate

7. The ancient cultures of both the Incas and the Chinese adapted to the physical geography of their region by

- (1) developing terrace farming on hillsides
- (2) building chariots to protect their open plains against invaders
- (3) becoming maritime traders
- (4) constructing harbors to encourage exploration