G - Geography
R - Religion
A - Achievements
P - Political Structure
E - Economy
S - Social Structure
How can using GRAPES help us to better understand civilizations?
What is Mesoamerica?
Mesoamerica

https://app.discoveryeducation.com/learn/videos/9a4879d1-1129-42d9-898d-b4912bdd23d6?hasLocalHost=false
Now that you’ve seen the video...

What is Mesoamerica?
Pass out Mesoamerica
GRAPES Note Organizer
Geography
Maya - Geography

- Extended through current Central America, including present day Guatemala, Belize, western Honduras, El Salvador, and some southern Mexican states.
- Area included the entire Yucatan Peninsula
- Central - Rainforests
- Northern - last area of dominance
- Guatemalan Highlands - Transition zone when Olmec influence developed into Mayan culture
Inca - Geography

- Empire grew rapidly because of 3 Geographical features:
  - The Andes Mountains
  - The Amazon Jungle
  - The coastal desert

- Incas made their home high in the mountains in between the jungle and the desert
Aztec - Geography

- Central Mexico, North of the Yucatan Peninsula
- Based in the Valley of Mexico - a wide, high elevation valley in the mountains of Central Mexico
- Surrounded by lakes that provided fish, waterfowl, potable water, and reeds for thatching and weaving
- Mild climate
Religion
Maya | Inca | Aztec - Religion Activity

Divide the class into 3 groups

Each group will be responsible for creating a poster to teach about one of these civilizations’ religions.

Your poster must include a description and a picture of each religion’s

a. Principal deities (religious leaders)

b. Rituals

c. Festivals

d. Creation Account
Maya - Religion

- Worshipped gods of nature - rain, maize, sun
- Believed that without the help of the gods, there would be no food and everyone would starve
- To get help from the gods, Maya fasted, prayed, and offered sacrifices
- Most sacrifices were animal but some human
Aztec - Religion

- Priests were highly respected
- Worshipped nearly 1,000 gods
- Most important god was the Sun god
- To please the gods, Aztecs offered many human sacrifices
Inca - Religion

- Polytheistic
- Primary deity: Inti the Sun god
- Mummified their dead and belief in reincarnation
  - Funeral lasted 8 days and included burial with items for next life
  - You can take it with you
- Mummified rulers were believed to still be alive
  - Servants would continue to wait on them
  - Family members would consult them for advice
- Priests and priestesses were believed to do the work of gods - usually part of the royal family
Achievements
Maya - Achievements

- No roads, but modified environment to allow for canoes for river travel
- Most accurate calendar
  - 365 days - Farming
  - 260 days - Religion
- Used vegetables and minerals to obtain dyes - only women did the spinning and weaving
Aztec - Achievements

- Built greatest city on an island in Lake Texcoco to protect from attacks
- Calendar shows culture centered on gods and goddesses
- Floating gardens called *chinampas*
Inca - Achievement

- Collected wool from Llamas for weaving
- Built one of the world’s best transportation systems
- Myths and artwork explained religion
Political System
Maya - Political System

- Greatly influenced by religious beliefs
- Believed that their rulers were god-like
- Civilization was organized into city-states which were ruled by a king.
Aztec - Political System

- Greatly influenced by religious beliefs
- Monarchy - there was an emperor as the primary ruler
- Went to war to collect tribute and victims to sacrifice for religious ceremonies
Inca - Political System

- Greatly influenced by religious beliefs
- Managed and governed a large population over a large area by:
  - Building roads to connect villages
  - Using messengers
  - Broke down government into small political divisions
Economy
Maya - Economy

- Greatly influenced by religious beliefs
- Used a barter system - goods were exchanged for other goods
- Most trade was done in villages that became major trading centers
Aztec - Economy

- Greatly influenced by religious beliefs
- Used barter system - exchanged goods for other goods
- Economy relied heavily on agriculture and farming
- Main crop that went to the marketplaces - Maize
Inca - Economy

- Greatly influenced by religious beliefs
- Used barter system - goods were exchanged for other goods
- Transportation system allowed for free movement and trade
- Incans worked on building the roads as part of the “labor tax” they paid to the government
Social Structure
Maya - Social Structure

- Supreme Ruler / Emperor
- Priests and nobles
- Merchants and artisans
- Peasants
- Slaves

- Europeans brought smallpox, killing many Mayan People.
Aztec - Social Structure

- Weavers from higher classes would use a wider variety of materials.

- Nobility were distinguished from commoners by:
  - Exotic clothing
  - More power
  - Land ownership

Aztec Society was composed of several social classes:
- Nobles
  - Priests, Officials, Warriors
- Merchants
  - Craftsmen, Traders
- Commoners
  - Farmers & Laborers
- Slaves
Inca - Social Structure

- United their empire by forcing their language and religion on the conquered peoples
- Had very little contact with outside world - shocked by guns, armor, and horses when the Europeans arrived
- Spanish defeated the empire and changed the course of history
What happened to the **Mayans**?

What happened to the **Aztecs**?

What happened to the **Incas**?
Arrival of the Spanish Worksheet