

Central American Indigenous Empire Project

S.S 8 Ms. Ink

Due: October 30 (Blocks 1-1 and 1-2)

Due: October 31st (Block 2-1)

You will be conducting research and creating a project about an Indigenous Empire from Central America. When conducting research you must use **at least ONE BOOK and ONE ONLINE SOURCE**. These are the Empires you can choose from:

- Aztec Empire
- Maya Empire
- Toltec Empire
- **Your choice – you must see me so I can approve it.**

You must choose a way to present your project. You can choose ONE of the things from the list below:

- Poster
- Video
- Podcast
- Stop Motion Studio (Stop motion video)
- Video Scribe
- A series of Infographics (Canva.com)
- **Idea of your own – you must see me so I can approve it.**

You will have to give information about several different parts of the empire including government, warriors and weapons, agriculture, social unit/structure, medicine/math/technology, religion and the fall/collapse of the empire. Below is a detailed description of what I would like you to include in your project for each of those sections.

Required Elements:

1. Government

- How was the empire divided? Was it divided into provinces/states?
- What was the structure of the government? Who was at the top and who was at the bottom? (The government pyramid)
- How much power did the government have over its people?
- Did they have a constitution? Did they have rules to follow?

2. Warriors and Weapons

- What did the warriors wear in battle?
- What kinds of weapons did the warriors use?
- What style of warfare did they use?

3. Agriculture

- Who was expected to work on the crops? How was food/crops distributed?
- What kind of method did they use to farm? (Terracing? Some other way?)
- What kind of farm technology did they have? (Ploughs? Tools? Irrigation?)

4. Social Unit/Structure

- What kind of language did they speak? Did they have a written language?
- What were women expected to do? What were men expected to do?
- Did they have a class system? Who was at the top and who was at the bottom? Could people move up or down?

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5. **Medicine/Math/Technology**

- Were they able to practice medicine? (Did they have surgeons? What kind of things were the surgeons able to do?)
- Did they create a calendar? Was it accurate?

6. **Religion**

- Who was their creator? What is their creation story?
- What God/Gods did they believe in?
- Did they perform any type of sacrifice for the God/Gods? If so, who/what did they sacrifice? Why did they do it?
- What was their most important or popular religious festival? When did the festival take place? What happened at the festival?

7. **Fall/collapse of the Empire**

- How exactly did such a strong empire fall? Give the specific reasons for this.
- Who conquered them? What conquistador led the army? How exactly was he able to conquer the empire?

Analysis and Synthesis (Critical Thinking) - **Has a separate marking rubric**

Comparing the Inca Empire to the empire you've chosen for your project, tell me what empire **YOU** believe is the best/most superior? This means you need to tell me what empire **YOU** think is more historically significant. Choose one empire and provide evidence to back up your opinion. Here are some things you can talk about to provide supporting details in your argument:

Supporting Details:

- Which Empire had a more powerful government? (Think about the unity of the empire, the control they had over their people, etc.) Provide information to prove it.
- Which Empire had a better agricultural system? (Were people always fed? Did they have advanced farming technology?) Provide information to prove it.
- Which Empire had the better army? (Who do you think had better weapons? Who had better fighting tactics? Who was more organized? Who was more successful against the Spanish invaders?)
- Which empire had more advanced medicine? Who had the better calendar? Provide information to prove it.
- Whose citizens were happiest? Whose citizens had the best life? Why do you believe this? Provide information to prove it.

Example of a supporting detail: "We believe that the Inca's had a superior government because they were able to unite 10 million people to form an empire that took up all of Ecuador, Peru and Chile. This is one reason why we believe the Inca's are the more superior empire".

Use all of this information to tell me who you believe is ultimately the best/more superior empire. As long as you pick a side and provide information to back up what your opinion is, you will be right!