INTENTIONS OF THE LESSON

I WANT STUDENTS TO:

1.) KNOW that the civilizations of Mesoamerica developed long rich histories before the arrival and influence of the Europeans.

2.) UNDERSTAND the impact of technology and explain how Mesoamerica advances in technology and influenced the world in mathematics and engineering.

3.) Identify the key components of the Aztec civilization and complete a PERSIAN Chart (SKILL).

DO NOW: If you had an opportunity to re-write the history of your family so that it reflects only what you want it to say…What would you write?

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Mesoamerica

_________________________=Mexico & Central America.

Some of the greatest civilizations in the Americas developed in ________________________.

The ______________________ and ______________________ lived in the Mesoamerican region.

How did people first get to the Americas?

- Theory #1 = _________________________ land bridge
  - Humans migrated into North America from Asia by crossing over a _______________ ________________ between Alaska and Siberia.

- Theory #2 = ________________________
  - Humans migrated to the Americas by crossing the seas, most likely the Pacific Ocean, and settling along the ________________________ coasts of the Americas.

Where did the ancient _________________ live?

- The ________________ settled on the ________________ peninsula in central America.

Maya Political Structure

- The Maya were NOT AN ____________________ and NOT ____________________ politically.
- Maya civilizations was made up of ____________________ - ____________________.
- Each city-state had its own ____________________.
Maya Architecture

- Built towering ____________ and ____________.
- Atop the temples, priests performed religious ceremonies and __________________ while people watched from the plazas below.
- Ceremonial platforms, temples, pyramids, observatories, ball courts all built by the Maya.

Maya Religion

- The Maya were ____________________
- The Maya practiced ______________ sacrifice.

Advances in learning

- The Maya created a __________________ system of __________________.
- The Maya created a set of ________________.
- Also developed a __________-day calendar.

What happened to the Maya?

- The Maya ____________________ many of their cities around 900 A.D.
- Archaeologists DO NOT KNOW ______________ Maya civilization declined.
- Theory: Around 900 A.D. there was a severe drought. Many died due to ________________, and others ______________ away.

Maya today

- ...more than ______ ________________ Maya people live in Guatemala and southern Mexico today.

Video Clip

- Write one thing that you found interesting:

Aztecs

Where did the _____________________ live?

- The Aztecs lived in what is known as the _____________________ ________________ in central Mexico.

Tenochtitlan

- _____________________ was the capital city of the Aztec Empire.

Legend of Tenochtitlan

- The gods told the Aztecs to search for an ______________ holding a ______________ in its beak perched atop a cactus. This is where they were to __________________ their capital city. The Aztecs saw this sign on a swampy island in lake ________________.
How did the Aztecs build a city in the center of a lake?

- Tenochtitlan was built on an ____________________
- It was connected to the mainland by ____________________ leading to the north, south, and west of the city.
- The city was interlaced with a series of ____________________, so that all sections of the city could be visited either on foot or by ____________________.
- Today, Tenochtitlan is ____________________ _________________.

Government

- The Aztecs created an empire through ____________________.
- Conquered people and local rulers had to pay ____________________ to the Aztecs.
- The Aztecs had an ____________________.
- The Aztecs Emperor’s main job was to lead in ________________.

Religion & Mythology

- Aztecs were ____________________
- Huitzilopochtli was the main Aztec god.
- The Aztecs built massive ____________________ and ____________________ dedicated to their gods.
- Pyramid of the _________________.
- Pyramid of the _________________.

Human Sacrifice

- Human sacrifice was a common practice of the Aztecs.
- For the reconsecration of Great Pyramid of Tenochtitlan in 1487, the Aztecs reported that they sacrificed ________________ prisoners over the course of ________________ days.
- To give the ________________ strength to rise each day, human sacrifices were offered.

What happened to the Aztecs?

- Spanish ____________________ led by ________________ ________________ conquered Tenochtitlan and defeated the Aztecs in 1521.

Video Clip - “Engineering an Empire”

- Write one thing that you found interesting:

Video Clip – “What The Ancients Did For Us”

- Write one thing that you found interesting:

Inca

Where did the Inca live?

- The Inca controlled an empire in the ____________________ ____________________ region of South America.
Government

- The _________________ ______________ (emperor) had absolute power.
- The emperor claimed to be the _________________ ________________.
- The emperor was also the empire’s _________________ leader.
- The empire was divided into four regions with the capital at Cuzco.

Uniting the Empire

- The Inca built a massive _________________ network through mountains and across rivers and gorges.

Stonework

- The Inca constructed stone temples without using ____________________ yet the stones fit together so well that a ________________ would not fit between the stones.

Religion

- The Inca were __________________________.
- The primary god was ________________, the sun god.
- Inca believed in ______________________________.
- The Inca practiced _________________________________.
  - They achieved this by wrapping tight cloth straps around the head of newborns to alter the shape of their soft skulls into a cone-like shape.

Medical Advancements

- Each family in a community was assigned a specific ________________.
- Government officials _____________________ marriages.
- The government organized mandatory _________________ service building projects.

What happened to the Inca

- _________________ war in the empire broke out.       AND
- _________________ spread, killing much of the Inca.

Fall of the Inca

- BUT ultimately, it was the Spanish conquistadors led by ______________________ that brought about the fall of the Inca Empire.

Video Clip – “Inca – Part 1”

- Write one thing that you found interesting: