

Achievements *of Ancient* Cultures

Achievements of Ancient Cultures

Student Objectives

I will be able to:

- Read and analyze informational texts about ancient civilizations.
- Share ideas with my peers.
- Build my vocabulary knowledge.
- Write an explanatory essay, a compare-contrast essay, and an argument essay.

Tips for Text Annotation

As you read closely for different purposes, remember to annotate the text. Use the symbols below. Add new symbols in the spaces provided.

Symbol	Purpose
<u>underline</u>	Identify a key detail.
★	Star an important idea in the margin.
① ② ③	Mark a sequence of events.
○magma○	Circle a key word or phrase.
?	Mark a question you have about information in the text. Write your question in the margin.
!	Indicate an idea in the text you find interesting. Comment on this idea in the margin.

Your annotations might look like this.

	Notes
<p>15 The accuracy of scanning potential dig sites also improved. In the 1950s, archaeologists first began using instruments called magnetometers to measure magnetic properties below the Earth's surface. Variations in magnetism in the soil, for example, can help identify the presence of objects (artifacts) or areas where human activities, such as cooking, occurred. <u>The results can be recorded and mapped to give an overview of a site for archaeological exploration.</u></p>	<p>It's amazing what we can learn through technology!</p>
<p>16 Then, in the 1960s, lidar (light detection and ranging), which uses a combination of light pulses and radar, was attached to airplanes and used to scan for possible excavation sites. Later, in the 1970s, ground-penetrating radar was used to identify structures buried beneath the ground.</p>	<p>How low do these planes fly?</p>

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Table of Contents



Essential Question	2
---------------------------------	---

Short Read 1

The Golden Age of Greece	4
--------------------------------	---

Short Read 2

Ancient Egypt's Golden Empire	6
-------------------------------------	---

Word Study Read

The Great Wall of China	10
-------------------------------	----

Build, Reflect, Write	11
------------------------------------	----

Extended Read 1

Rome's Augustan Age	12
---------------------------	----

Word Study Read

Augustus Caesar: The First Roman Emperor	20
--	----

Build, Reflect, Write	21
------------------------------------	----

Extended Read 2

The Golden Age of the Inca Empire	22
---	----

Word Study Read

The Discovery of Machu Picchu	30
-------------------------------------	----

Build, Reflect, Write	31
------------------------------------	----

Support for Collaborative Conversation	32
--	----

Making Meaning with Words	Inside Back Cover
---------------------------------	-------------------

Essential Question

Why do we consider certain civilizations “great”?





*Remember
to annotate
as you read.*

Notes

The Golden Age of Greece

by Catherine Goodridge

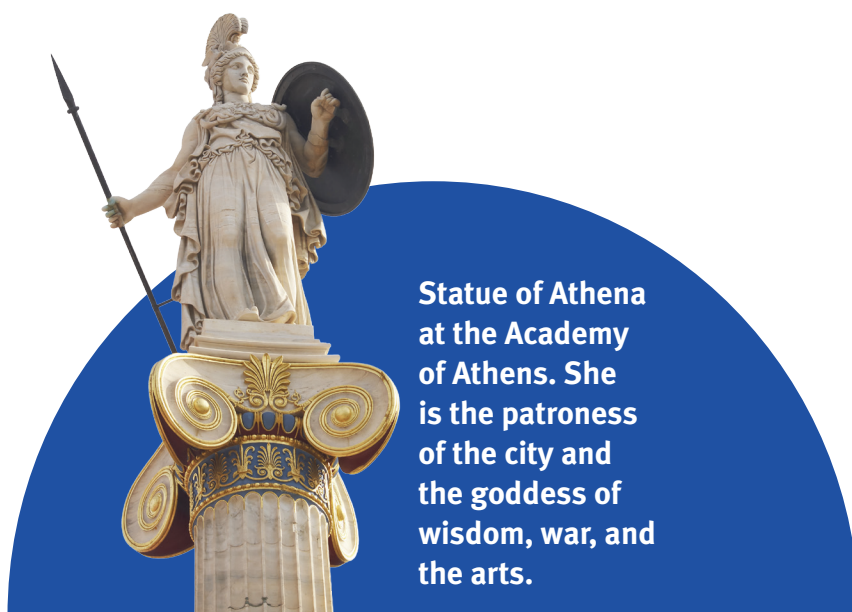
- 1 Ancient Greece fought a long series of wars with Persia from 499 BCE to 488 BCE. After the war, Greece had to rebuild the country. The era of rebuilding became known as the “Golden Age of Greece.” It lasted about two hundred years, from 500 to 300 BCE. Art during this period flourished, and the works that survived are considered classics today. The Canadian Museum of History states, “The ‘Golden Age’ of Greece laid the foundations of Western civilization.”
- 2 Religion was very important to the ancient Greeks, and they built temples as monuments to their gods and goddesses. These structures were rectangular and built of materials such as marble and limestone. Tall columns surrounded long inner chambers. At the center of the temple was a statue of the god or goddess who protected the surrounding community.



The Parthenon was built in honor of the Greek goddess Athena. Today, its ruins stand on the Acropolis, a rocky hill above the city of Athens.



Notes



- 3 The many statues of gods and goddesses demonstrate the powerful role the gods played in the lives of Greek citizens. The Greek sculptor Phidias made two monumental statues. One was of the goddess Athena for the Parthenon in Athens. The other was a statue of Zeus, which he made for the Temple of Zeus in Olympia. Both were over forty feet high.
- 4 The life-size statues of ordinary men and women reflect the Greek love of beauty. Artists used a variety of materials, including marble, bronze, and even gold, to create lifelike figures. Some statues even suggest movement, such as running or throwing.
- 5 Other arts also thrived during the Golden Age. Painters used pottery as their canvases to portray scenes from mythology and daily life. These paintings show people riding horses, drinking and eating, and playing instruments.
- 6 Unfortunately not all of the art and architecture from ancient Greece has survived. However, through artifacts and continued research, we continue to learn why this period in Greek history deserves to be called the “Golden Age.”

Remember
to annotate
as you read.

Notes

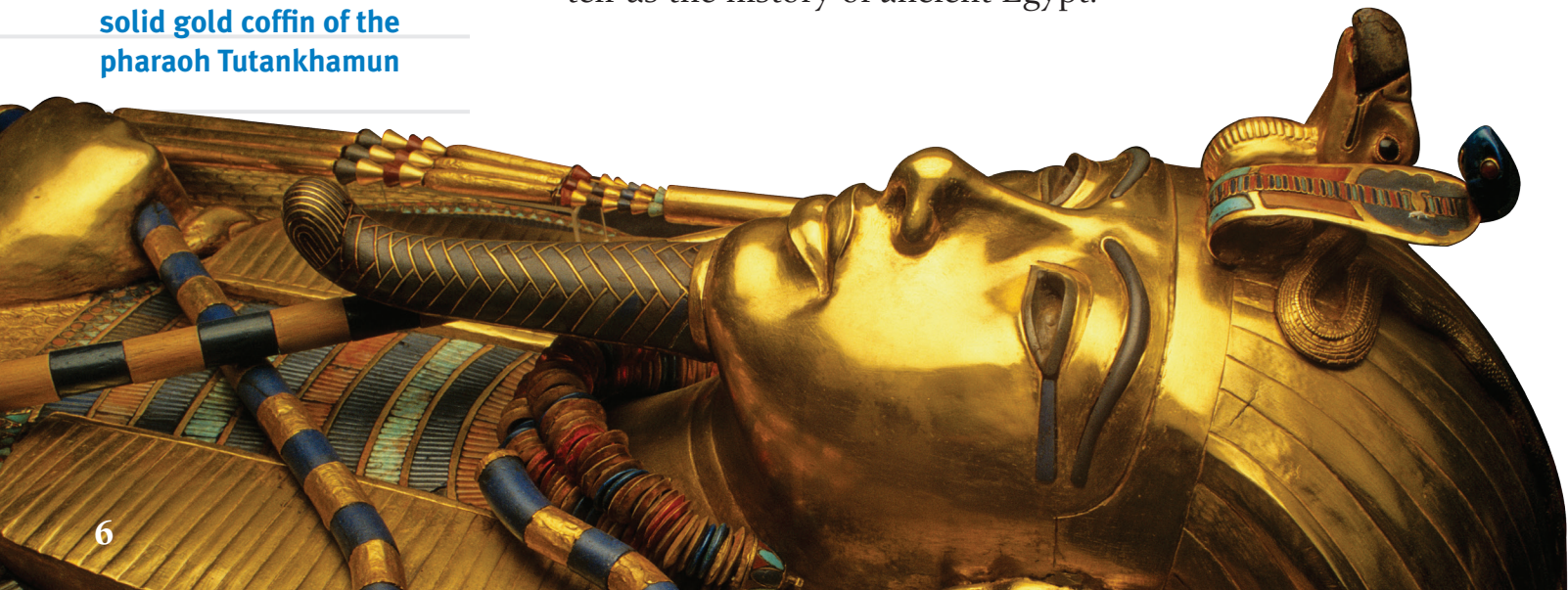
Ancient Egypt's Golden Empire

by Vidas Barzukas

- 1 Historians generally agree that Egypt's "Golden Age" began with its eighteenth dynasty (1507–1340 BCE), when a succession of powerful pharaohs, including Tutankhamun, extended Egypt's influence in the Near East. This "Golden Age" produced massive pyramids, temples, and tombs filled with golden treasures. The artifacts of this period have allowed archaeologists to study and understand the daily lives of ancient Egyptians. Howard Carter, an English archaeologist, described what he saw when he first entered King Tutankhamun's tomb, saying, "As my eyes grew accustomed to the light, details of the room within emerged slowly from the mist, strange animals, statues, and gold—everywhere the glint of gold." From mummies to golden treasures, findings like these tell us the history of ancient Egypt.



solid gold coffin of the
pharaoh Tutankhamun



Notes

Architecture

- 2 The afterlife was very important to the ancient Egyptians, and they built large structures to honor the dead. When one of the common people died, priests mummified the body by treating it with oils and wrapping it in cloth. The body was buried in a simple tomb.
- 3 The pharaohs, on the other hand, were entombed in giant pyramids. Building the pyramids was an enormous task. The blocks weighed between two and seventeen tons each. Stonemasons carved the stone, and then workers dragged each huge block to its place. Engineers have many theories about how this difficult task was accomplished. Most agree that workers must have used a combination of ropes, ramps, sledges, and levers to move these massive blocks of stone. Pyramids such as the Great Pyramid of Giza are among the largest monuments ever created.

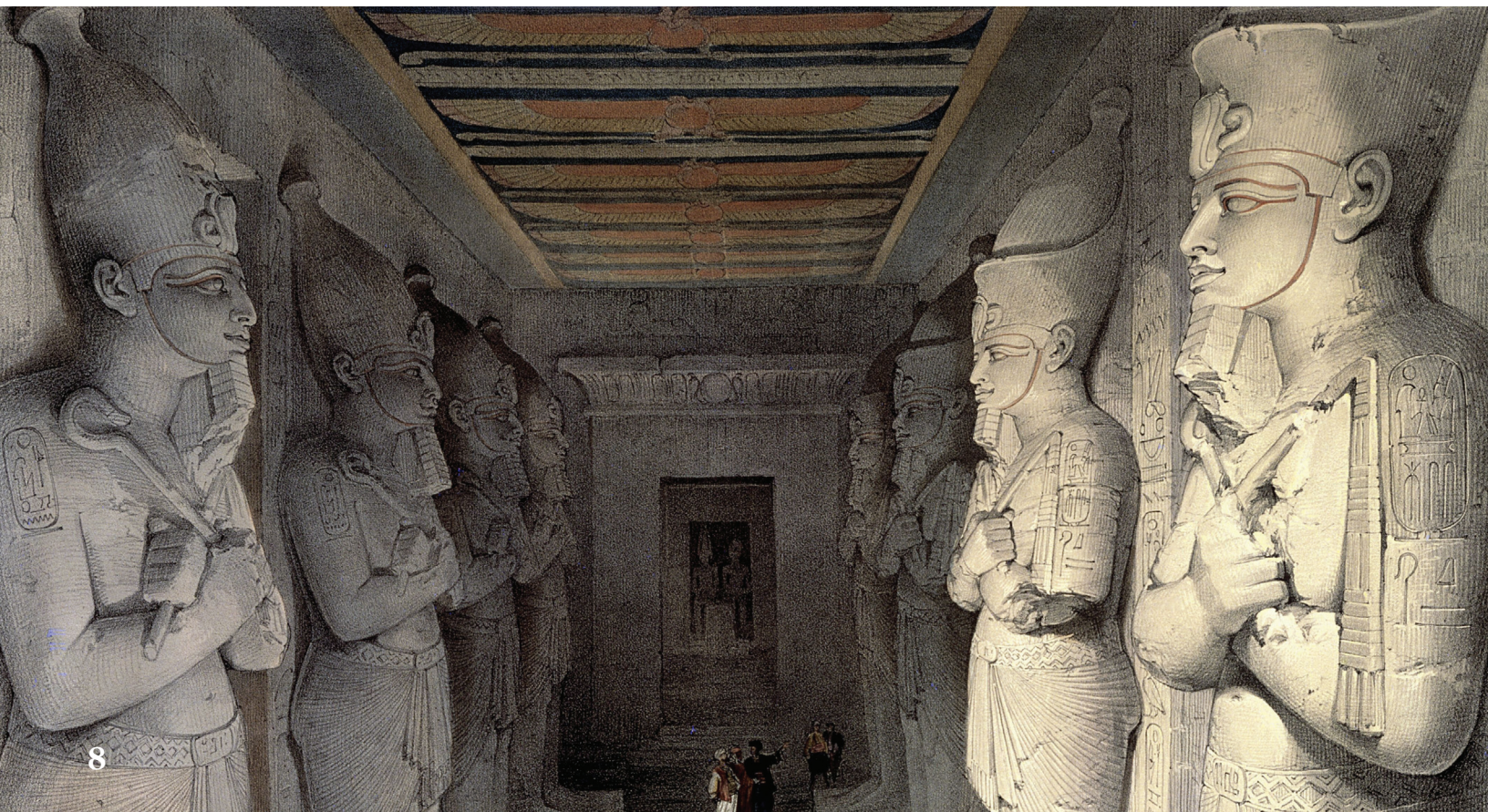
the three pyramids of Giza



Daily Life

- 4 The Egyptians were ruled by a pharaoh, a god-king, who was both a religious and a political leader. The pharaoh had palaces throughout ancient Egypt and was attended to by many servants. Skilled workers and farmers, however, lived in villages and small towns scattered along the Nile River. Daily life was vastly different for the royalty and common people.
- 5 The majority of Egyptians were poor farmers. They toiled on lands owned by the pharaoh near the Nile River. The flooding waters of the river covered the farmland and left a layer of fertile black mud. The farmers then planted seeds in the mud and harvested the crops. They used their crops to pay their taxes. Crops supported Egyptian life.
- 6 The Egyptian palaces were a hive of activity. A number of advisers and officials worked inside the palaces. There were lawyers, priests, and scribes who wrote down important information. The highest-ranking official was the vizier. The vizier was a special adviser to the pharaoh and carried out his orders.

ancient Egyptian limestone
statues of Ramses II



Notes

Arts

7 Skilled workers used simple tools made of stone, bronze, and copper to create dazzling art. These artists crafted gold rings, pendants, and sparkling necklaces made of glass. They also created ornate glass jars. Sculptors shaped pots by hand or on a potter's wheel, then rubbed pebbles against the pot to make it shine. Artists also painted nature scenes on tiles. They used the tiles to decorate floors in the pharaoh's palaces.



Cats were esteemed animals in ancient Egypt. They were the subject of many paintings and sculptures.

8 Many of the best artists worked for the pharaoh. Sculptors used wooden hammers and bronze chisels to carve reliefs on temple walls. These reliefs showed images of Egyptian gods or scenes from everyday life. Many artists painted pottery and funeral masks in rich colors. These painted items would sometimes be placed in tombs. The Egyptians believed the dead would enjoy art even in the afterlife.

9 Archaeologists and historians continue to make new discoveries about ancient Egypt. Most recently, the ruins of a city known as Heracleion were discovered thirty feet under the surface of the Mediterranean Sea near Alexandria. Again, the artifacts found were well preserved. As Sir Barry Cunliffe, an archaeologist, said, "The archaeological evidence is simply overwhelming. By lying untouched and protected by sand on the seafloor for centuries they are brilliantly preserved."

*Remember
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as you read.*

Notes

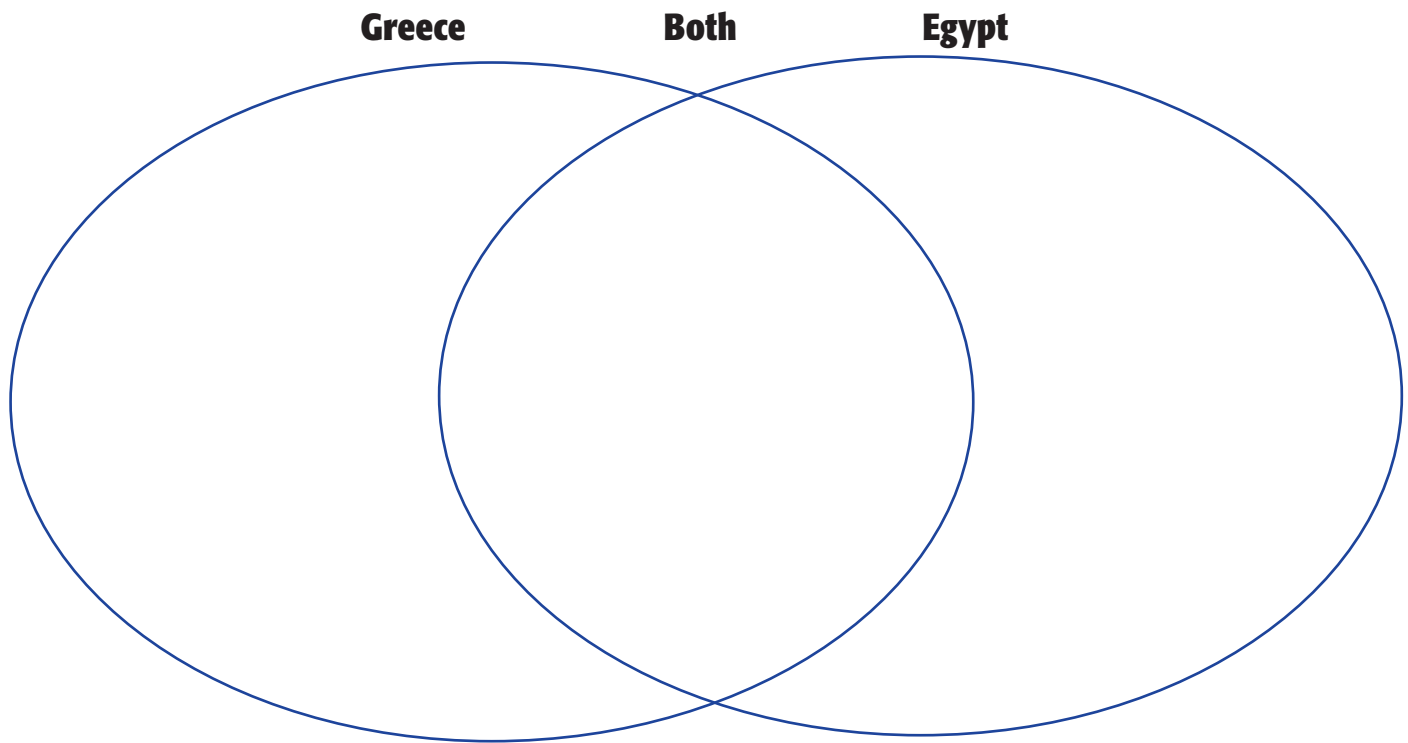
The Great Wall of China

- 1 Over 2,000 years ago, China began construction on what would become one of the greatest human-made structures in the world—the Great Wall. Like the pyramids in Egypt, this massive wall has stood the ravages of time. However, more than 60 percent of it has been damaged or destroyed. Although battered and crumbling in spots, nothing can spoil the thrill of seeing this grand symbol of Chinese history and strength.
- 2 But how did it all begin? The Great Wall, which started as a series of smaller walls, was originally built to separate three warring states of China. These independent walls became “Great” during the Qin Dynasty, when Emperor Qin Shi Huang and his royal court decided to join them, creating a defensive wall to keep out the invading Huns from the north. The wall was also used to control China’s borders and collect taxes from those traveling along the Silk Road.
- 3 It took a lot of workers to build this extraordinary wall. Soldiers, prisoners, and thousands of local people toiled for decades to construct it. They used stone, brick, rammed earth, wood, and other materials. The completed wall snaked through China like a giant dragon. It wound up and down and across deserts, mountain ranges, and grasslands for about 8,851 kilometers (5,500 miles). Along the route, the workers built watchtowers, troop barracks, and shelters.
- 4 The best-preserved section of the wall is now near the capital city of Beijing. Thousands of tourists enjoy visiting it each year. Climbing the many stairs that lead to the top is a difficult and sweaty task. However, once tourists are there, standing on the ancient stones and looking around at the beauty of the Chinese countryside, they realize it was well worth the effort.

BuildReflectWrite

Build Knowledge

Compare and contrast the ancient civilizations of Greece and Egypt. How are they alike? How are they different? What do these civilizations have in common?



Reflect

Why do we consider certain civilizations “great”?

Based on this week’s texts, write down new ideas and questions you have about the essential question.

Writing to Sources

Explanatory Essay

In Unit 5, the passage “Updating Archaeology” describes the work of archaeologists. Write an essay explaining how archaeology helps contribute to our understanding of ancient civilizations. Use details and examples from “Updating Archaeology,” “The Golden Age of Greece,” and “Ancient Egypt’s Golden Empire” to support your response.

*Remember
to annotate
as you read.*

Notes

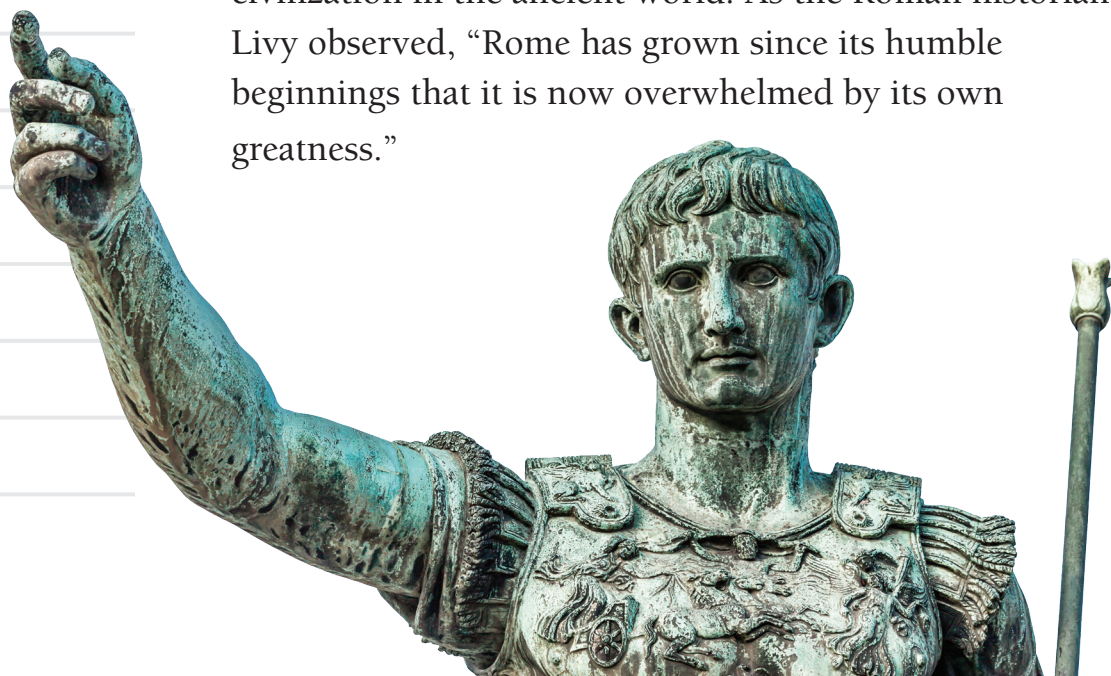
Rome's Augustan Age

by Tracey Telling

1 In 31 BCE, a long period of Roman civil wars had finally ended. The emperor Augustus was now the undisputed leader of Rome. His rule and reformation of Roman institutions helped launch the most creative period of the Roman Empire. Often called the “Golden Age,” or the Age of Augustus, it was a time of peace and stability that lasted for more than 200 years.



2 Under Augustus, the Romans began laying roads to connect all corners of its empire. Soon people were saying “All roads lead to Rome.” Vast aqueducts, public amphitheaters, and forums were constructed. Art and literature flourished. As Augustus said, “I found Rome a city of bricks and left it a city of marble.” These accomplishments made Rome the wealthiest and greatest civilization in the ancient world. As the Roman historian Livy observed, “Rome has grown since its humble beginnings that it is now overwhelmed by its own greatness.”



Architecture

“All the abundant supply of water . . . for public buildings, baths, and gardens . . . coming from such a distance, tunneling through mountains, and leveling the route through deep valleys must make this the most remarkable achievement anywhere in the world.”

—PLINY, THE ELDER, HISTORIAN

- 3 One of Rome’s achievements was the construction of aqueducts. Aqueducts were giant bridges that brought water down from a water source in the mountains. Built on a slight downward angle, aqueducts were designed to allow gravity to pull the water through a network of channels and pipes. As a result, a steady stream of water flowed downward, carrying water into cities and towns.
- 4 Aqueducts also brought water to wealthier homes, public fountains, and into public baths. These baths were vast buildings where Romans went to bathe and exercise. Bathers began their day by entering a sweltering steam room to bathe and relax. Then they took a refreshing dip in a pool filled with cold water. Some Romans even held business meetings in the baths.

a Roman aqueduct





the Baths of Caracalla

Notes

- 5 The baths were like little communities within the city. Many baths contained libraries, food shops, and gardens. The Baths of Caracalla, one of the largest public baths, could hold more than 1,500 bathers. For many Romans, rich and poor, the baths were a part of everyday life.

Daily Life

- 6 Life in the country was very different from life in the city. In the country, wealthy landowners owned farms and raised livestock. Slaves toiled in the fields. In the countryside outside of Rome, farmers grew grapes, olives, and vegetables. Roman provinces such as Egypt grew grain to feed the Roman Empire's growing population. Cities relied on the produce in the countryside for their wealth and everyday needs. When Pliny the Elder put up some country property for sale, he wrote, "The property is fertile, rich, and well supplied with water, and consists of meadows, vineyards, and woods that produce an income from timber."

Notes

- 7 Life in the city, however, was hot and overcrowded. Stalls and shops packed the narrow streets. The bustling markets overflowed with vegetables, meats, and animals. The clamor of vendors and peddlers selling everything from puddings to sausages filled the streets. Although some rich Romans lived in town houses, the majority of Romans lived in cramped apartment buildings. Augustus limited the height of apartment buildings to five floors. However, some dishonest property owners built additional floors. These buildings were unsafe and often collapsed or burned down.

Art and Spectacle

- 8 The Romans loved games. For example, both the wealthy and the poor flocked to the Circus Maximus, the largest stadium in ancient Rome, where chariot races were held. During Augustus's rule, seventy-seven days every year were devoted to public games. Races were run on seventeen of those days. Spectators cheered on chariots that charged around an oval track.

marble relief of circus race, third century CE

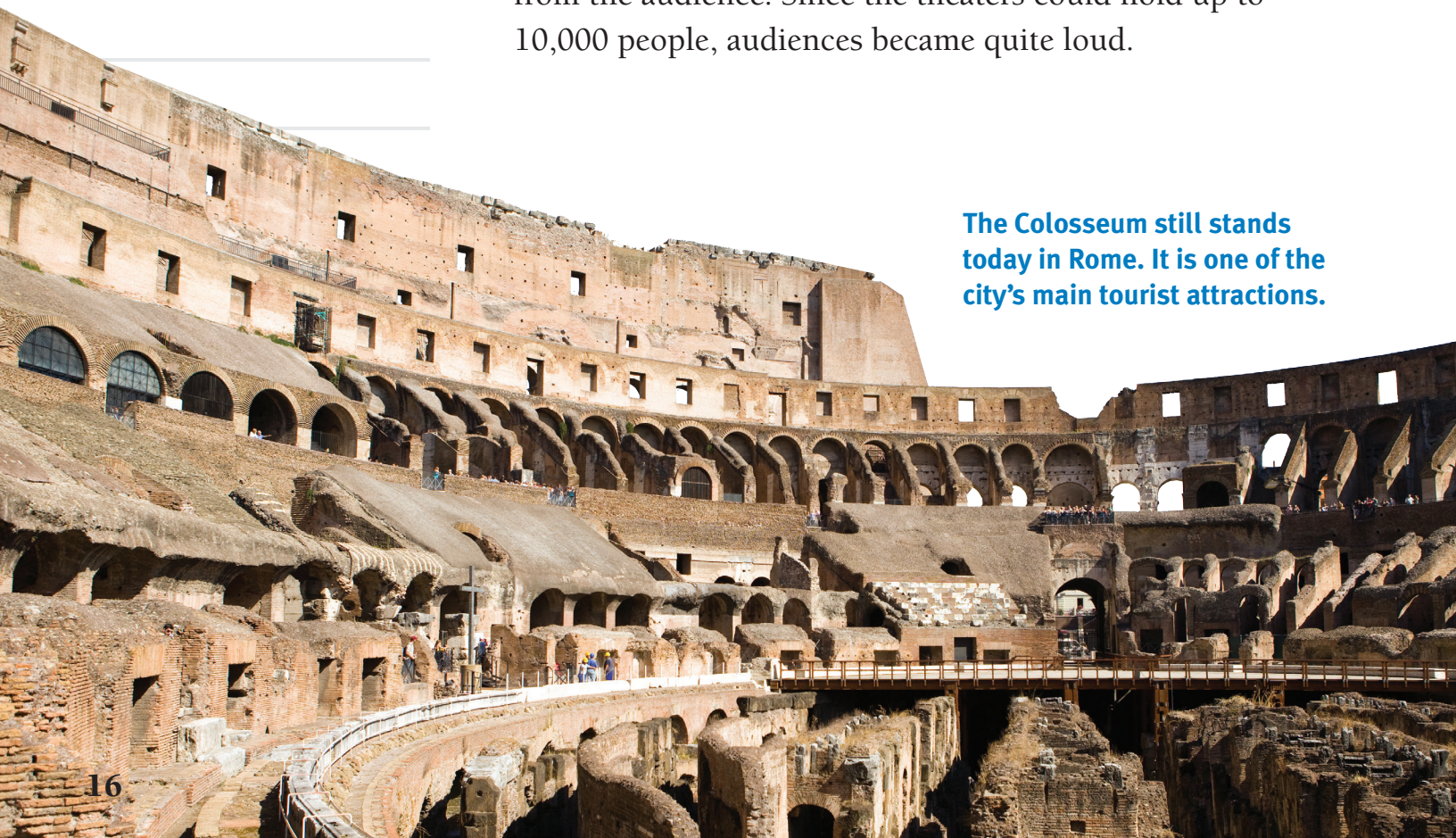


- 9 The Romans also loved to watch gladiators engage in battle at the Colosseum. The gladiators were slaves, criminals, or prisoners of war trained to fight. Armed as warriors, they fought each other as well as wild animals such as lions. Gladiators who fought well and won were treated like celebrities. Wounded gladiators could beg for mercy from the crowd. However, it was up to the emperor or official to decide the gladiator's fate.

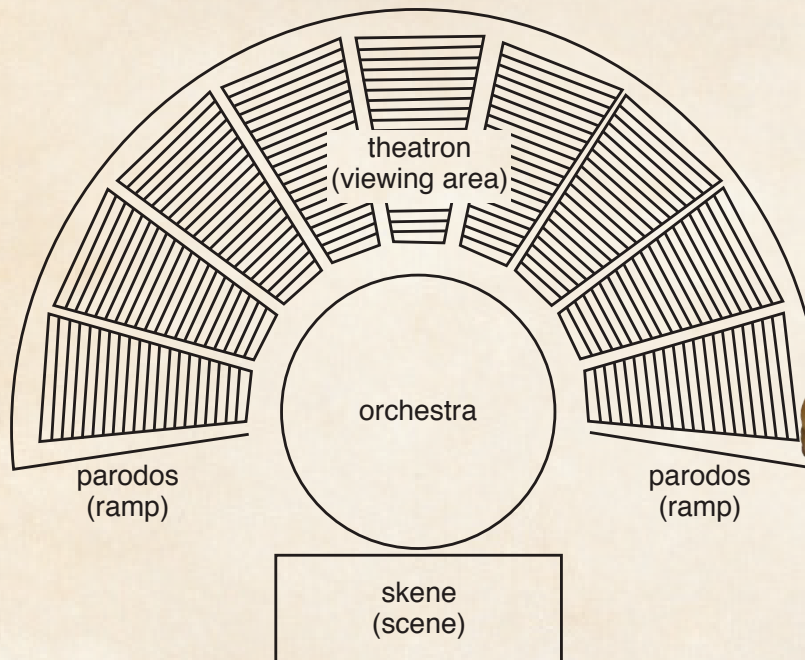
Theater

- 10 Another form of entertainment during the Golden Age was Roman theater. Roman theater was influenced and inspired by the Greek theater. Roman actors wore giant, distorted masks that could easily be seen by audience members sitting in the back of the theater. At first, the Romans performed comedies and serious tragedies. But over time, mimes or farces became more popular. These farces included musicians, dancers, and a chorus. Farces were particularly noisy, with a lot of booing and hissing from the audience. Since the theaters could hold up to 10,000 people, audiences became quite loud.

The Colosseum still stands today in Rome. It is one of the city's main tourist attractions.



Parts of a Greek Theater



“The first time I tried to present this play, I was competing for an audience with some well-known boxers, and a tightrope walker as well. . . Then someone spread the word that gladiators were about to perform, and my audience surged away in a mob, almost climbing over each other for the best spots.”

—TERENCE, ROMAN WRITER, AUTHOR OF *The Mother-in-Law*

Notes

- 11 The actors performed on giant stages that rose two or three stories high. Plautus, a Roman playwright, wrote many comedies. His works have influenced other playwrights throughout history. Shakespeare’s play *A Comedy of Errors*, a humorous play about two lost sets of twins, was inspired by two of Plautus’s plays. Molière, a French playwright, wrote *The Miser*, a farce based on Plautus’s comedy *The Pot of Gold*. The modern musical *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* was also based on a play by Plautus.

Writing

12 The Golden Age saw a great outpouring of writing, too. Horace (65 BCE–8 BCE), one of the most celebrated of the Augustan poets, wrote satires of Roman society and odes to celebrate everyday events. The Roman poet Virgil (70 BCE–19 BCE) wrote several important works, including the epic poem *The Aeneid*. Virgil's poem draws on two epics composed by the Greek writer Homer, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. Virgil's poem tells the story of Aeneas, a character from Homer's *Iliad*, who flees Troy after defeat by the Greeks in the Trojan War. In the *Aeneid*, Aeneas goes on to become the founder of Rome. Other writers who were part of the golden age of Latin literature include the poet Ovid (43 BCE–18 CE) author of *The Metamorphosis*, a long narrative poem about the history of the world, and Livy (59 BCE–17 CE), a historian who wrote a comprehensive history of Rome. All of these works have become classic texts of Western literature.



Ovid's Exile

A sculpture of Publius Ovidius Naso (Ovid) stands in a square in Constanta, Romania. The Roman Emperor Augustus exiled Ovid to Constanta (then called Tomis) in 8 CE. The cause of Ovid's exile remains a mystery, though it is assumed that he offended the emperor in some way through his writings.

Notes

Crafts

- 13 A new craft that Romans helped develop was glassblowing. Before the Romans, making glass was hard work and very expensive. Very few people owned glass items. The craft of glassblowing made glass items cheaper. Now they could be afforded by the middle class. Glass became an everyday material.
- 14 Many Roman buildings during the Golden Age were decorated with detailed marble statues and beautiful mosaics. Using hammers and chisels, artists cut small cubes from blocks of colored marble and sandstone. They would then press the cubes into soft mortar on the wall or floor to create a picture. These pictures could be simple patterns of flowers and vines. Artists also created more complex mosaics that included gods and goddesses and city life.
- 15 During its Golden Age, Rome was the most powerful empire in the world. It was not just a time of peace and stability. It was also a time when architecture, art, and literature flourished. It left behind an abundance of wonders, many of which can still be seen today.



Remember
to annotate
as you read.

Notes

Augustus Caesar: The First Roman Emperor

- 1 The man who would become Augustus, the first Roman Emperor, was born in 63 BCE and called Octavian. His father was a senator and died when Octavian was a boy. His mother was the niece of Julius Caesar, who later adopted his great-nephew as his son. One might speculate that this family connection paved the way for Octavian to become Augustus.
- 2 As a young man, Octavian became involved in Roman politics. He respected his uncle, Julius Caesar, and joined him in battle. Caesar eventually became the dictator of Rome, but his rule ended abruptly when he was assassinated in 44 BCE.
- 3 A lengthy period of civil war followed, and Octavian fought to avenge Caesar's death. Meanwhile, his own power increased, and in 27 BCE, he became Emperor of Rome, receiving the title *Augustus*, which means "revered."
- 4 As emperor, Augustus created a period of peace, reconstruction, and prosperity. He began a public works program and constructed many buildings, including a civic center in Rome with temples and a Senate house. Spectacular structures, such as the Theatre of Apollo enjoyed by Roman audiences, were also erected. His engineers built aqueducts to bring fresh water to the cities, and he initiated the first police and firefighting forces.
- 5 Augustus promoted literature and the arts and supported many famous literary figures, such as Horace, Ovid, and Virgil. Statues of Augustus were everywhere, his face was on Roman coins, and the month of August was named in his honor.
- 6 Emperor Augustus died in 14 CE, having transformed the Roman Empire. Many historians believe he was one of the world's most gifted and brilliant leaders.

BuildReflectWrite

Build Knowledge

In your view, what are the three most important achievements of ancient Roman culture? Make a chart identifying those achievements and support your view with evidence from the text. Then state what you think was the most significant achievement of the Roman Empire.

Achievement	Evidence
1.	
2.	
3.	
Most significant achievement:	

Reflect

Why do we consider certain civilizations “great”?

Based on this week’s texts, write down new ideas and questions you have about the essential question.

Writing to Sources

Compare–Contrast Essay

The passages “The Golden Age of Greece,” “Ancient Egypt’s Golden Empire,” and “Rome’s Augustan Age” describe the art of three ancient civilizations. Write an essay in which you compare and contrast the art from Greece, Rome, and Egypt. Use details from all three texts to support your response.

*Remember
to annotate
as you read.*

Notes

The Golden Age of the Inca Empire

by Vincent Banks

- Stretching 7,242 kilometers (4,500 miles) along the west coast of South America, the Andes Mountains are the longest mountain chain in the world. In the fifteenth century, the Andes were home to a kingdom ruled by the Inca. The Inca were members of the group of Quechuan peoples of Peru. At its peak, the Incan Empire spanned almost 4,023 kilometers (2,500 miles). This vast realm was called the “Land of the Four Quarters.” Writer Liesl Clark states, “At the height of its existence the Inca Empire was the largest nation on Earth and remains the largest native state to have existed in the Western Hemisphere.”
- The Incan Empire included mountain ranges, dry desert areas, and steamy rain forests. The engineering feats of the Inca are unrivaled. The Inca built elaborate roads, monumental temples, and suspension bridges across steep mountain valleys. Although the Incan Empire lasted less than 300 years, it became in that time one of the greatest s in the Americas.



The walls in this ruin at Cuzco fit together perfectly.



Notes

- 3 The empire also had incredible wealth. Cuzco, the capital of the empire, was the richest city in the New World. Many historians believe these riches may have also led to the Incan downfall. In 1532, Spanish explorers, who were greedy for the Inca's gold and silver, conquered the Incan people and destroyed their culture.

Architecture

- 4 In the past 500 years, several earthquakes have hit the Andes. Many of these earthquakes have toppled modern buildings and caused extensive damage. However, the Incan temples, palaces, and agriculture terraces built centuries ago are still standing.
- 5 One of the reasons the Incan monuments have survived is their construction. The Inca did not use cement or mortar as we do today. They used fieldstones. Stonecutters carefully shaped the stones so that they fit tightly together. Once the stones were in place, workers chiseled the sides to make them smooth. Then the workers polished the stones with wet sand. The Inca's ability to cut stones in vastly different shapes is what makes their buildings so special.

Machu Picchu

- 6 The most famous Incan monuments can be found at Machu Picchu, an elaborate and intricate city situated on top of a hill almost 2,438 meters (8,000 feet) above sea level. On the windy ridge at Machu Picchu, the Inca built approximately 200 structures, including temples, palaces, and homes. They also constructed more than 700 terraces that allowed them to grow crops, conserve water, and prevent soil erosion. Irrigation canals provided a steady stream of fresh water to its inhabitants. Even today, visitors can find stone terraces that wind through the ancient city and climb the mountainside like steps. This achievement is even more impressive considering that the Inca did not have the tools and knowledge we have today. According to *National Geographic*, “When Machu Picchu was built some 500 years ago the Incas had no iron, no steel, and no wheels.”

This is
Machu Picchu.



Notes

7 Historians are not sure why the Inca built Machu Picchu. Some believe it may have been a ceremonial or religious site. Others think it was used for military purposes or as an emperor's estate. There is also controversy surrounding when Machu Picchu was discovered and by whom.

8 American archaeologist Hiram Bingham claimed to be the first to discover Machu Picchu in 1911. In his book, *Lost City of the Incas*, Bingham describes coming upon Machu



American archaeologist Hiram Bingham brought Machu Picchu to the world's attention.

Picchu. He says, "It took my breath away. What could this place be? Why had no one given us any idea of it?" He later goes on to say that "surprise followed surprise until there came the realization that we were in the midst of as wonderful ruins as any ever found in Peru." His book made both Bingham and Machu Picchu famous. Today, most historians and archaeologists agree that other explorers most likely saw the site before Bingham did. However, Bingham was the first to bring the site to the world's attention.

Daily Life

- 9 The social structure of the Inca was very strict. At the top was the emperor, or Sapa Inca. He was believed to be the son of the Sun God. Below the emperor were nobles and governors who ruled the different parts of the empire. Below them were thousands of lower officials. Their job was to keep records and make sure people followed the king's laws. Finally, at the bottom were the farmers. Inca farmers worked on land owned by the emperor.
- 10 Farming and raising animals were central to the Incan way of life. Farmers grew many different crops, including beans, squash, and sweet potatoes. However, the main crop was maize, or corn. Inca women pounded maize into porridge. They also ground maize into a type of flour called semolina. To harvest the most crops out of the hilly terrain, farmers built terraces on the hillsides.
- 11 The Inca domesticated two animals, the llama and the alpaca. Llamas were used to carry light loads, while alpacas provided the Inca with soft wool for clothing.

The Inca farmed on terraces to make more land available for farming.





Traditional Incan clothing is still worn in Peru today.

Notes

- 12 While Inca men worked in the fields, the women spun and wove clothing for their families. The type of clothing a person wore reflected his or her social class. For example, people of high status wore finer clothes with colorful decorations that were silky to the touch. Lower-class people wore garments made of alpaca wool or coarser cloth. Besides making clothes for their families, the women donated woven goods as a tax to the king.
- 13 The Incan Empire was very rich, but it did not have currency. The Incan people did not use money. Instead, people paid their taxes by working. Officials would assign men jobs, such as building, digging canals, or farming. The people were paid in food and clothes.
- 14 In Incan society, it was not possible to improve one's class status. People remained in the social class they were born into and could not move up the social ladder.

“They found shoes made of gold, of the type the women wore, like half-boots. They found golden crayfish such as live in the sea, and many vases, on which were sculpted in relief all the birds and snakes that they knew, even down to spiders, caterpillars and other insects.”

—PEDRO PIZARRO, EXPLORER AND COUSIN OF FRANCISCO PIZARRO

Art

15 The Inca believed that gold was the sweat of the sun. They also believed that silver was the tears of the moon. The Inca mined these precious minerals from deep inside Earth. Then skilled workers melted the minerals to create dazzling art. For example, they created sparkling treasures such as silver statues of llamas and golden drinking glasses for the king. Even the most revered Temple of the Sun’s walls were covered in gold.

16 When an Incan ruler died, his servants placed a golden mask over his face. It was their golden art, however, that led to the downfall of the Incan Empire. Spanish explorers heard of the vast riches of the Incan Empire and set out to conquer them. Francisco Pizarro succeeded in conquering the Inca. Their empire soon faded and then disappeared.



Notes

Why “Golden Age”?

17 The Inca built a vast empire in the Andes Mountains. Although the empire lasted around 300 years, it was one of the most powerful empires in the world. The Inca mined riches from Earth to create exquisite art. They also created vast temples out of chiseled stone. Like the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome, the Incan Empire had a “Golden Age” that contributed to future societies. The Spanish used building techniques they learned from the Inca. In modern times, there has been a revival of traditional Incan arts, crafts, and music. And today, visitors can journey to the ruins to reflect upon the Incan way of life and the treasures they left behind.

The indigenous people of Peru carry on some of the customs of the Incan people.



Remember
to annotate
as you read.

Notes

The Discovery of Machu Picchu

- 1 Even though Machu Picchu was built around 1450, very few people outside the countryside northwest of Cuzco, Peru, knew that it existed, until the early 1900s. Then, in 1911, Hiram Bingham, a professor from Yale, “discovered” the secret city and brought it to the world’s attention.
- 2 After Bingham’s discovery, a great deal of knowledge about Machu Picchu’s history was revealed. One interesting fact was the short period of time this beautiful place had been in use. Most historians believe it was abandoned around 1572, during the Spanish conquest of Peru. That was just a little more than 100 years after it was built. Bingham’s team of archaeologists thought that Machu Picchu might have been a religious sanctuary. However, more recently, historians believe it was a royal estate for the Incan emperor, Pachacuti.
- 3 Uncovering Machu Picchu has helped historians learn more about the civilization of the Inca. The Great Central Temple and the Temple of the Sun are wonderful examples of their architecture. Both are famous for their stunning stonework. The Inca used a technique called ashlar, in which blocks of stone were cut so precisely that they fit together tightly like pieces of a puzzle. No mortar, or cement, was necessary, and in fact, not even the blade of a knife fit between the stones. There were no loose stones. Historians believe that hundreds of men worked together to push the huge stones up the steep mountain to create these structures. What an amazing feat!
- 4 Since its discovery, many of Machu Picchu’s buildings have been reconstructed and restored to create a better idea of how the original site looked. Today, it is Peru’s most popular tourist attraction, and the thousands of people who visit each year ensure it will not be forgotten.

BuildReflectWrite

Build Knowledge

What does Machu Picchu tell us about the culture of the Inca?

Brainstorm ideas using the chart below.

The Inca Empire	
Conclusion	Evidence
Conclusion	Evidence
Conclusion	Evidence

Reflect

Why do we consider certain civilizations “great”?

Based on this week’s texts, write down new ideas and questions you have about the essential question.

Writing to Sources

Argument

You have read about three ancient monuments: the Great Pyramid, the Colosseum, and Machu Picchu. Which of the three monuments do you think demonstrates the greatest ingenuity? Write an essay in which you state a claim and clear reasons supported with evidence from the text.

Support for Collaborative Conversation

Discussion Prompts

Express ideas or opinions . . .

When I read _____, it made me think that _____.

Based on the information in _____, my [opinion/idea] is _____.

As I [listened to/read/watched] _____, it occurred to me that _____.

It was important that _____.

Gain the floor . . .

I would like to add a comment. _____.

Excuse me for interrupting, but _____.

That made me think of _____.

Build on a peer's idea or opinion . . .

That's an interesting point. It makes me think _____.

If _____, then maybe _____.

[Name] said _____. That could mean that _____.

Express agreement with a peer's idea . . .

I agree that _____ because _____.

I also feel that _____ because _____.

[Name] made the comment that _____, and I think that is important because _____.

Respectfully express disagreement . . .

I understand your point of view that _____, but in my opinion _____ because _____.

That is an interesting idea, but did you consider the fact that _____?

I do not agree that _____. I think that _____ because _____.

Ask a clarifying question . . .

You said _____. Could you explain what you mean by that?

I don't understand how your evidence supports that inference. Can you say more?

I'm not sure I understand. Are you saying that _____?

Clarify for others . . .

When I said _____, what I meant was that _____.

I reached my conclusion because _____.

Group Roles

Discussion Director:

Your role is to guide the group's discussion. Ask your peers to explain and support their responses.

Notetaker:

Your job is to record the group's ideas and important points of discussion.

Summarizer:

You will write a short summary of the group's comments and conclusions. Check with the group that it accurately reflects their ideas.

Connector:

In this role, you will look for connections between the group's discussion and ideas you've talked about in class or events that have happened in the real world.

Presenter:

Your role is to provide an overview of the group's discussion to the class.

Timekeeper:

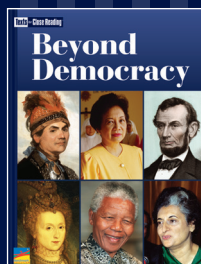
Your job is to track the time and keep your peers on task.

Making Meaning with Words

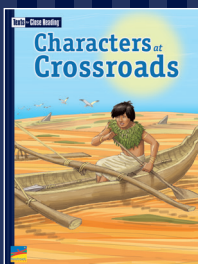
Word	My Definition	My Sentence
abundant (p. 13)		
comprehensive (p. 18)		
controversy (p. 25)		
dynasty (p. 6)		
elaborate (p. 22)		
realm (p. 22)		
reformation (p. 12)		
revival (p. 29)		
succession (p. 6)		
undisputed (p. 12)		

Build Knowledge Across 10 Topic Strands

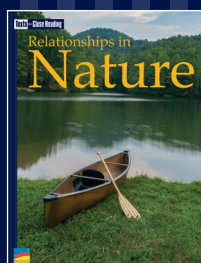
Government and Citizenship



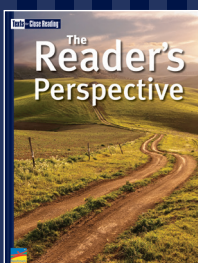
Character



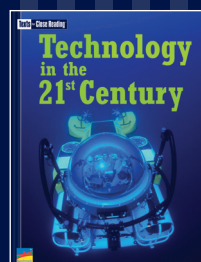
Life Science



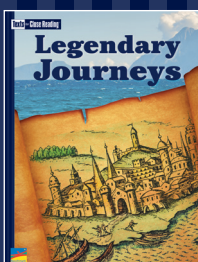
Point of View



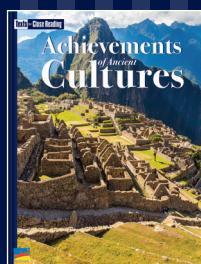
Technology and Society



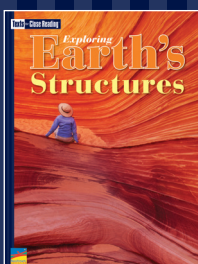
Theme



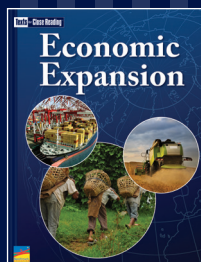
History and Culture



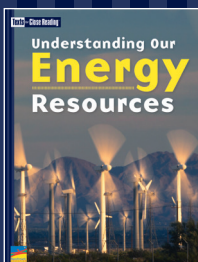
Earth Science



Economics



Physical Science



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