• What were the chief characteristics and accomplishments of Mayan and Aztec civilizations?

• How have Latin America’s early civilizations affected present-day cultures in Latin America?
Mayan Civilization

Mayan Cities
• The Mayas built great cities like Copán and Tikal. Mayan cities were religious centers.

Mayan Farming and Science
• The Mayan farmers’ most important crop was maize. They also grew beans, squash, peppers, avocados, and papayas. Mayan priests studied the stars and planets and designed an accurate calendar. The Mayas developed hieroglyphics.

The Mystery of the Mayas
• The Mayas left their cities around A.D. 900, and nobody knows why. Famine or war could have killed the Mayas or the people could have rebelled against the priests.
Maya City of Tikal (Then)
Maya City of Tikal (Today)
Mayan City of Copan (Then)
Maya City of Copan (Today)
The Aztecs arrived in the Valley of Mexico in the 1100s. In 1325, they settled on an island in Lake Texcoco—the city Tenochtitlán.

Tenochtitlán was a center of trade and learning.

In the 1400s, Aztec warriors began conquering the other people in the region. They grew rich collecting taxes from the conquered people.
### Mayan Civilization
- Thrived in Central America and Southern Mexico from 300 – 900 AD
- Built great cities and religious centers
- Farmers grew maize and other crops
- Developed system of writing using hieroglyphs
- Designed an accurate calendar
- Developed math system similar to present day decimal-system

### Aztec Civilization
- Settled on an island in Lake Texcoco where they built Tenochtitlán in 1325
- Created a large empire
- Traders carried goods throughout the empire
- Doctors created over 1,000 medicines from plants
- Astronomers predicted eclipses and planetary movement
- Developed hieroglyphic system of writing similar to the Mayas