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**Anticipatory Guide: How did people in the Americas interact with one another?**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Before | |  | After | |
| True | False |  | True | False |
|  |  | 1. Trade in the Americas was fairly easy with many trade networks that carried goods and people all over. |  |  |
|  |  | 2. Large parts of Latin America (Mexico, Central America, and South America) are mountainous and have high elevations. |  |  |
|  |  | 3. Most of Latin America has a similar climate (tropical wet and dry). |  |  |
|  |  | 4. A large portion of Central America and northern South America is tropical rain forest. |  |  |
|  |  | 5. There were few natural barriers/obstacles to trading and interaction between civilizations in the Americas. |  |  |
|  |  | 6. The Native Americans had access to many useful plants and animals that they could domesticate and use for food or to do work |  |  |
|  |  | 7. It was mainly items of great value (precious metals and art) that were traded longer distances |  |  |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**The Geography of Latin America**

Latin America is a diverse land with many obstacles to trade. Examine the geography of Latin America using the World Studies: Latin America textbook and answer the following questions:

**Turn to page 39: Early Civilizations Map**

1. Where was the Mayan civilization located? When did they rule that area?

2. Where was the Aztec Empire located? When did they rule that area?

3. Where was the Incan Empire located? When did they rule that area?

**Turn to page 4: Physical Latin America**

4. Some of the Maya Civilization lived in the Yucatan Peninsula. At what elevation range is most of the Yucatan Peninsula? (in feet):

5. Some of the Aztec Civilization was located in the Plateau of Mexico. At what elevation range (brown) is most of the Plateau of Mexico? (in feet):

6. Some of the Inca Civilization was located in the Andes Mountains. What is most likely the elevation range of the majority of Inca towns (brown)? (in feet):

7. Imagine you were an Incan trader and you wanted to trade with the other major civilization at the time, the Aztec. What is the most elevation change you would likely experience: Use the following equations to help you answer the question:

The Inca's highest elevation - the Maya lowest elevation + the Aztec's highest elevation = total possible elevation change of a trip from the Incan Empire to the Aztec Empire (in feet)

8. The mountain with the largest elevation change (base of the mountain to it's summit) in the world is Mount McKinley in Alaska (18,000 feet). Would a trader from the Inca possible have to change elevation more or less than this to trade with the Aztec?

9. Describe how this would affect trade between peoples in Latin America? Why?

**Turn to page 16: Climate Regions of Latin America**

10. What is the climate in the former Aztec city in the city of Mexico City?

11. What is the climate in the former lands of the Maya in the country of Belize?

12. What is the climate in the former lands of the Inca in the city of Lima?

13. How many total different climate regions exist in the Latin American Region?

14. How many different climate regions are between Mexico City and Lima?

15. How might the different climate regions affect trading between the Aztec, Maya, and Inca civilizations?

**Turn to page 20: Vegetation Regions**

16. What is the vegetation region of Mexico City (former home of the Aztecs)?

17. What is the vegetation region of most of the Belize and Honduras (former home of the Maya)?

18. What is the vegetation region of Lima (former home of the Inca)?

19. What is the vegetation region of the majority of Central America and northern South America?

20. What vegetation region would a trader from the Aztecs need to travel through the longest to get the Inca civilization?

21. Why is traveling through a tropical rainforest difficult? What obstacles might you encounter?

22. How would traveling through a tropical rainforest impact speed of trade between the Inca, Aztec, and Maya?

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**Comparing the Geography of the Americas with Afroeurasia**

Introduction: A researcher named Jared Diamond investigated, why is it that today some people have lots of goods (cars, tvs, fancy houses, jewelry, clothes) or wealth and why other people do not? He makes the argument that the reason why Europe and Asia developed faster and became more wealthy than the Native Americans is because of geography. We will watch 3 video clips about the differences between the Americas' and Afroeurasia's geography and determine how this affected the Native civilizations of the Americas.

**Video Clip 1: Early Agriculture**

1. What did the peoples who had the most productive plants and animals develop?

2. Where did agriculture first develop?

3. What advantages did people in Europe or the Middle East have over the people of the New World (America)?

**Video Clip 2: Domesticated Plants and Animals**

1. What was needed for people to start living in towns and creating civilizations?

2. How did the plants and animals of the Middle East (Asia) work together?

3. Why was it important to have animals like the horse or ox that can do more than be used for just food?

4. Out of the 14 large mammals in the world that have ever been domesticated how many come from the Americas?

5. Out of the 14 large mammals in the world that have ever been domesticated how many come from Asia, North Africa, or Europe?

6. What disadvantages did people in the Americas have compared to those in Afroeurasia?

**Video Clip 3:** **Trade and Geography**

As you know, trade isn't just important because people need to trade goods, but it's important that people interact and learn from one another. Probably the most important idea spread through trading was how to read and write (literacy). However, because trading was so difficult in the Americas many people never learned how to read or write. Even though the Maya learned to write as early as 250 BCE, over a thousand years later the most powerful civilization in the Americas (the Incan Empire) was still unable to write. As you watch the video clip, be thinking about the maps we examined yesterday and why trading in the Americas was so difficult.

**WRITE A PARAGRAPH**: How did the fact that the Americas is long from North to South vs. the Eurasian landmass being long from East to West affect trading?

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**A Case Study: Doc A: The Ancient Maya: Economy and Trade**

While long distance trading was difficult that doesn't mean that these civilizations didn't trade. In fact, these civilizations had strong trading networks, especially for shorter distance trading. As a case study (example) we will read Document A: The Ancient Maya: Economy and Trade. You will answer the following questions:

**Sourcing:**

1. a. Who is the author? b. When was it written?

a. b.

2. Is this a primary or secondary source of information?

**Close Reading:**

3. Did Maya's use money or barter?

4. What were the two kinds of goods that the Maya traded?

5. What kinds of items were subsistence items?

6. Were subsistence items traded long distances?

7. What kinds of items were prestige items?

8. How do we know that prestige items were widely traded by the Maya?

9. Does the author discuss the Maya trading with other civilizations/peoples? Why might that be?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Summative Assessment: How did people in the Americas interact with one another?**

Use the information you have learned over the last three days to write a two-paragraph essay answering the following questions.

**Paragraph 1 - Geography:** Describe the geography of the Americas. Be sure to address each of the following questions:

* What was the physical geography, climate, and vegetation like?
* Why was the north-south layout of the landmasses important?
* What disadvantages did the Americas have with domesticated plants and animals?

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**Paragraph 2 - Trade:** Describe trade in the Americas. Be sure to address each of the following questions:

* How did geography affect trading in the Americas?
* What were some barriers to long distance trading?
* What kinds of items were traded and over what distances?
* How did the lack of trading impact the spread of knowledge in the Americas?

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