

## A Comparison of the Maya, Aztec and Inca Civilizations

	<b>The Maya</b>	<b>The Aztecs</b>	<b>The Incas</b>
<b>Time Period</b>	<b>300-900</b>	<b>1200s-1500s</b>	<b>1100s-1500s</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Yucatan to Central America</b>	<b>Mexico</b>	<b>Ecuador to Chile</b>
<b>Government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Each city with own ruling chief</li> <li>* Bureaucracy of nobles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Emperor chosen by nobles, priests and military leaders to lead in war</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Rule by God-King with absolute power</li> <li>* Efficient government with specially trained officials</li> </ul>
<b>Religion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Polytheistic</li> <li>* Powerful priests</li> <li>* Elaborate ceremonies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Polytheistic</li> <li>* Priests very powerful</li> <li>* Human sacrifices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Polytheistic</li> <li>* Monthly festivals</li> <li>* Offerings to gods</li> <li>* Powerful priests</li> </ul>
<b>Farming Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Burned and cleared forests</li> <li>* Raised fields along banks of rivers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Floating gardens called chinampas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Step terraces</li> </ul>
<b>Achievements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Hieroglyphics</li> <li>* Number system</li> <li>* Concept of zero</li> <li>* Solar calendar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Herbs and medicines</li> <li>* Able to set broken bones and treat dental cavities</li> <li>* Steam baths</li> <li>* Accurate calendar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Skilled metalworkers</li> <li>* Mastered art of weaving</li> <li>* Surgery and antiseptics</li> <li>* Extensive system of roads</li> </ul>
<b>Cause of Decline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Theories include: warfare, overpopulation, peasant revolts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Spanish invaders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Spanish invaders</li> </ul>



Mayan Temple