

The Maya, Inca, and Moche Meso-America Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn with Ms. Scott's Class
Mattawoman Middle School Charles County, Maryland

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| 1 | Here today, in your school, we have Maya..... | 1 | Sorry. |
| All | Ahhhhh! Maya! [gesture] | 2 | Did you know that priests ruled also? |
| 2 | Oh my gosh! | All | Well duh! |
| 3 | Can I get her autograph?! | 3 | Everybody knows that. |
| 1 | Not the singer! | 4 | Okay, if you think you're so smart, try your hand at the Incas! |
| All | Awwww... | All | Ahhhhh! [gesture] Incubis! |
| 4 | The civilization! [gesture] | 5 | That rock group? |
| All | What civilization? | 6 | Are they gonna play a concert? |
| 5 | The Maya civilization was part of Meso-America. | 7 | I got all their CDs! |
| All | Meso? What does meso mean? | 8 | No! Not Incubis! The Incas were another Meso-American civilization like the Maya. |
| 6 | Meso means middle. | All | Awwww. |
| 7 | What we know today as Central America. | 9 | They were stone masons—people who carved stone. |
| All | Ohhhhh. | 10 | What did they do with all that stone? |
| 8 | Back then—AD 500 to AD 1500— | 11 | Like the Maya. they made it into temples. |
| 9 | Over five centuries ago? | 12 | Their temple stones were carved so well that you couldn't fit a piece of paper between them. |
| All | Duuuu-ude! | All | Tight! [gesture] |
| 10 | They just happened to be polytheists. | 13 | The Inca population was so large... |
| All | What's a polytheist? [gesture] | All | How large was it? [gesture] |
| 10 | That's the belief in many gods. | 13 | ... they had 13 million people at the height of the empire. |
| 11 | The Maya were so advanced that they had a number and writing system. | All | 13 million people! Wow! Sweet! [gesture] |
| 12 | If they were so civilized, why were they polytheists? | 14 | They must have needed a lot of land. |
| 13 | That was the religion. Other aspects made them civilized. | 15 | Right. They conquered the Cuzco and added all their land to Inca land. |
| 14 | Like what? | 16 | How did they control all that land? |
| 15 | Well, they had a two class system and two calendars. | 17 | They had an all-powerful ruler in charge of everything—Pachacuti! (Pah-cha-KOO-tee) |
| All | Two calendars? [gesture] What's the point of having two calendars? | All | Pachacuti! (Pah-cha-KOO-tee) [gesture] |
| 15 | On the calendars, they organized their religious practices [gesture] and farming schedules [gesture]. | | |
| 16 | Didn't the Maya have pyramids? | | |
| 17 | Aw, snap, son! | | |
| All | Not pyramids! –Limestone temples! [gesture] | | |

1	He was so respected that the people mummified him.	12	How did the Moche know what happened in the past?
2	Did you know that the Inca even had sacrifices for their dead rulers?	13	They had stories passed down from generation to generation.
3	Why did they do that?	All	Ohhh-the oral tradition!
4	Because it was a part of their religion.	13	Right!
5	That's a messed-up religion!	15	They also had large temples like the Maya did.
6	No—it's just different!	16	But they were made out of mud.
7	Mmmmmm. If you think that's different listen to what I have to say about the Moche.	All	Mud?
8	Let me guess—another Meso-American civilization?	16	Mud.
All	(A rap) What I have to say about the Moche—ugh!	17	Where did they build all their temples?
	What I have to say about the Moche—ugh!	1	Along the north coast of Peru.
	Don't stop! Get it, get it. Tell me how the Moche did it!	2	I wonder what they ate in Peru in those days....
9	Just like the Maya and the Inca, the Moche had a class system.	3	I know—beans, peanuts, squash, hot peppers, and ... chicken!
10	But unlike them, the Moche didn't have a writing system.	All	No—not chicken! Maize!
11	Then how did they pass notes?	3	Maize?
All	[sound effect] [gesture] "Anywayz".....	All	Corn!
			[sound effect—P.A. Announcement sound]
		4	Teachers and students—please excuse the interruption. All seventh graders should report to the gymnasium immediately for a special concert by Korn!
		All	Korn! Ahhhhhhh! [All "exit"]