

# Maya, Aztec, and Inca Civilizations

## Timeline Cards



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# CHAPTER 1: The Maya: People of Mystery



Archaeologists believe that the Maya culture had begun to appear as long ago as 1500 BCE.

**Big Question:** What do the ruins of the Maya tell you about the importance of religion to their civilization?

## CHAPTER 2: Maya Science and Daily Life



Between 200 and 900 CE, the Maya civilization reached its peak, building great cities with enormous pyramids and temples for the celebration of complex religious beliefs.

**Big Question:** Why is the 365-day solar calendar developed by the Maya particularly impressive?

## CHAPTER 3: The Aztec: Soldiers of Blood



1300s: According to legend, the Aztec built their great city Tenochtitlán after receiving a sign from the sun god—an eagle sitting on a cactus, holding a snake in its beak.

**Big Question:** Why did the Aztec make human sacrifices?

## CHAPTER 5: The Inca: Lords of the Mountains

1300s: The Inca believed that their emperor was the child of Inti, the sun god. Under his leadership, the Inca built a great and powerful civilization and empire.



**Big Question:** Why were llamas so important to the Inca?

## CHAPTER 7: The End of Two Empires



In 1492, an expedition led by Christopher Columbus reached the Americas. His journey was the first European encounter with the New World during the Age of Exploration.

**Big Question:** What were the factors that contributed to the end of the Aztec and Inca empires?

## CHAPTER 7: The End of Two Empires

Hernán Cortés and his Spanish conquistadors were able to defeat the Aztec ruler Moctezuma II and capture Tenochtitlán in 1521.



**Big Question:** What were the factors that contributed to the end of the Aztec and Inca empires?



## CHAPTER 7: The End of Two Empires



In 1534, Pizarro and his soldiers tricked Inca ruler Atahualpa into paying a huge ransom for his freedom. The Spaniards then put Atahualpa to death and quickly toppled his empire.

**Big Question:** What were the factors that contributed to the end of the Aztec and Inca empires?

## CHAPTER 7: The End of Two Empires

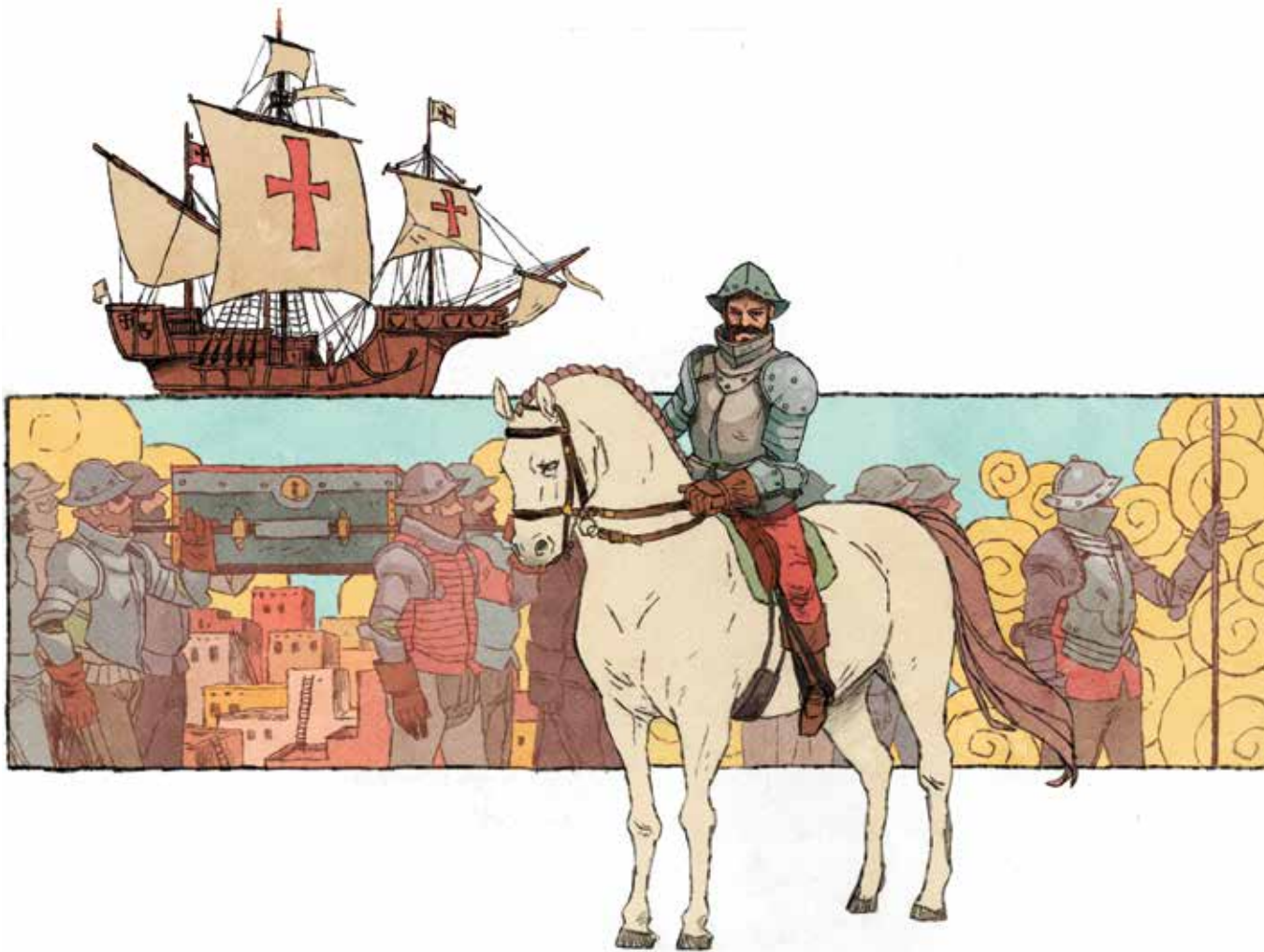


By 1535, the Spanish had destroyed the Aztec Empire and controlled most of present-day central Mexico.

**Big Question:** What were the factors that contributed to the end of the Aztec and Inca empires?

## CHAPTER 7: The End of Two Empires

By 1540, the Spanish had defeated the Inca and controlled most of present-day Peru.



**Big Question:** What were the factors that contributed to the end of the Aztec and Inca empires?