



***Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program is a TEKS-aligned language arts curriculum designed to support Texas learners in the classroom, at home, or wherever learning takes place. Built on the science of teaching reading, the program combines systematic foundational skills with content knowledge—so that learning to read and reading to learn develop together.***

Welcome to Grade 5, Unit 1, *Early American Civilizations*! Here is what your student will be learning about over the next few weeks.

In *Early American Civilizations*, students will learn how large civilizations, such as the Maya, Aztec, and Inca, developed in the Americas before the arrival of Europeans. Your student will explore the geography, climate, innovations, discoveries, and overall history of each of these civilizations.

As they dive into their Student Readers, students will be exposed to a variety of complex texts. They will explore the way of life of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations and will use the information from their Readers to engage in an informative writing piece. They will integrate what they have learned about the civilizations as they review the stages in the writing process.

Students will collaborate with their classmates and share their ideas as they develop and deepen their understanding of these literacy skills.

**While your student engages in the rich content and lessons throughout the unit, here are a few conversation starters you can use to promote discussion and continued learning.**

- Why did so many civilizations start around rivers?
- How did the Maya use the plants and animals in the rain forest?
- Can you tell me about the different types of education that boys of different social classes in the Aztec Empire received?
  - Follow up: What did each type of education prepare them to do?
- Can you compare and contrast the Maya and Aztec civilizations?
  - Follow up: What was the same about them? What was different?
- What were some of the things the Inca did to create a network of roads?
  - Follow up: Why was it important for them to have this network?