

Grade 5

Unit 2

Assessment Guide: Unit Assessment

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Grade 5

Unit Assessment

Unit Assessment for *Early Americas: Maya, Aztec, and Inca*

Reading Comprehension

Today you will read two book excerpts, or pieces, about Machu Picchu. An explorer named Hiram Bingham wrote the book in 1922. The first excerpt is from the book's preface, or introduction. The second excerpt is from Chapter 17 of the book. After reading the excerpts, you will answer several questions based on the texts. Some of the questions have two parts. You should answer Part A of the question before you answer Part B.

Excerpt 1: From the Preface of *Inca Land: Explorations of the Highlands of Peru*, by Hiram Bingham

1. This book describes parts of four of my journeys into Peru. Although my travels covered only a part of southern Peru, they took me into every kind of climate. My travels also forced me to camp at many different heights. I camped at very low heights when at sea level and at very high levels when in the mountains. On my journey, I had to cross the harsh and cold Andes Mountains. In the Andes, I experienced heavy snowfalls and low temperatures. I also had to wind my way through huge canyons into the dense jungles of the Amazon Basin. The Amazon Basin is as hot and humid a region as exists anywhere in the world. The Incas lived in a land of extremes. No deserts in the world have less vegetation than their deserts. No fertile tropical valleys have more plant life than their jungles. In Inca Land one may pass from glaciers to tree ferns within a few hours. Present-day writings about the last of the Incas illustrate this contrast. Historians shift rapidly from fact to fantasy and from observation to imagination in their writings. They also often omit important details and give conflicting

statements. Because present-day writings are such a mix of fact and fantasy, the story of the Incas remains mysterious.

2. Some wonderful pictures from an 1800's explorer first interested me in a relatively unknown region of Peru. The area is sometimes called "the Cradle of the Incas." I believe my photographs cannot compete with the imaginative pencil of such an artist. However, I hope that some of them may lead future travelers even farther into the Land of the Incas. I also hope my photographs inspire others to further explore the mysterious places mentioned in the stories.

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Excerpt 2: From Chapter 17 of *Inca Land: Explorations of the Highlands of Peru*, by Hiram Bingham

3. Under a carved rock the little boy showed me a cave beautifully lined with the finest cut stone. It was evidently intended to be a Royal Tomb. On top of this particular boulder a semicircular building had been built. The wall followed the natural curvature of the rock. It had one of the finest examples of masonry I have ever seen. This beautiful wall was made of carefully matched stones of pure white granite. It was the work of a master artist. The inside surface of the wall included slots and square stone-pegs. The outside surface was perfectly simple and plain. The lower rows, of large stones, made the structure look solid and strong. The upper rows, becoming smaller in size toward the top, made the structure look graceful and delicate. The flowing lines, symmetrical arrangement of the stones, and gradual movement from thicker to thinner rows, produced a wonderful effect. The look is softer and more pleasing than that of the marble temples of the Old World. Because there is no mortar, there are no ugly spaces between the rocks. They might have grown together.

4. I find this pure, undecorated surface to be mysteriously beautiful. The mason who built the wall did not have the same kinds of tools available that masons have today. He had no instruments of precision, so he had to depend on his eye. He had a good eye, an artistic eye, an eye for symmetry and beauty of form. His product lacks the harshness of mechanical and mathematical accuracy. The rectangular blocks are not really rectangular. The straight lines of the rows are not actually straight in the exact sense of that term.
5. I was amazed at how fine this wall and its adjoining semicircular temple over the cave were. They were as fine as the finest stonework in the famous Temple of the Sun in Cuzco. I continued to be surprised as I went farther. I climbed a marvelous great stairway of large granite blocks. Then I walked along a prairie where indigenous people had a small vegetable garden, and came into a little clearing. Here were the ruins of two of the finest structures I have ever seen in Peru. They were made of selected blocks of beautifully grained white granite. Their walls contained huge stones, ten feet in length, and higher than a man. The sight held me spellbound.

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6. ... It seems incredible that this place remained undescribed by travelers for so long. It also seems incredible that it was relatively unknown to the Peruvians themselves. It was less than three days' journey from Cuzco. If the Spanish ever saw this wonderful place, they would have surely written about it. However, nothing can be found which clearly refers to the ruins of Machu Picchu. No one is sure when a Spanish-speaking person first saw it. People believe that several explorers came close to Machu Picchu, but missed it. The earliest local record of someone discovering Machu Picchu is from 1902. In that year, Agustín Lizárraga wrote his name on the walls of one of the finest buildings. Yet some one must have visited Machu Picchu long before that. In 1875, as has been said, the French explorer Charles Wiener heard of there being ruins at "Huaina-Picchu or Matcho-Picchu." He tried to find them but he failed. He did not reach Machu Picchu because there was no road through a nearby canyon. Also, he had to make a wide detour through another valley. His route brought him to the Urubamba River, twenty-five miles below Machu Picchu.
7. Adapted from Bingham, Hiram. *Inca Land: Explorations in the Highlands of Peru*. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company and The Riverside Press Cambridge, 1922.

Questions

The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

1. **Part A:** In paragraph 2 of excerpt 1, the author states he hopes that his photographs inspire others. What is the meaning of the word *inspire*?
- A. to make someone want to do something
 - B. to scare someone from doing something
 - C. to make someone take a picture of something
 - D. to explore a mysterious place

Part B: Which phrases from paragraph 2 of excerpt 1 best help the reader determine the meaning of *inspire*? [Choose two.]

- A. the imaginative pencil
- B. relatively unknown region
- C. to further explore
- D. lead future travelers
- E. some wonderful pictures
- F. in the stories
- G. “the Cradle of the Incas”

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The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

2. **Part A:** Based on *Inca Land: Explorations of the Highlands of Peru*, what inference can be made about how the author felt about the stone walls at Machu Picchu?
- A. He wished the stone walls had been discovered sooner.
 - B. He had great admiration and respect for the people who built the walls.
 - C. He believed someone had discovered the stone walls but kept them secret.
 - D. He believed marble walls would have been too expensive to build.

Part B: In the text, circle the paragraph that provides evidence for the answer you selected above.

3. In the excerpts from *Inca Land: Explorations of the Highlands of Peru*, the author gives some reasons for why someone should have discovered Machu Picchu before the early 1900s and also gives some reasons for why more people had not discovered Machu Picchu sooner. The headings in the chart below list these two different ideas. Complete each row of the chart by writing facts and details from the text to support each idea.

Evidence from the text for why someone should have discovered Machu Picchu sooner	Evidence from the text for why more people had not discovered Machu Picchu sooner
It was less than three days' journey from Cuzco	Charles Wiener did not reach Machu Picchu because there was no road through a nearby canyon.

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4. In the excerpts from *Inca Land: Explorations of the Highlands of Peru*, the author gives one piece of evidence for the discovery of Machu Picchu. Underline the sentence in the excerpt that best supports how we know when Machu Picchu was probably first discovered.
5. In paragraph 5 of the excerpt from *Inca Land: Explorations of the Highlands of Peru*, what is the meaning of the word *spellbound*?
- A. scared
 - B. bored
 - C. amazed
 - D. strengthened
6. Read the following sentence from paragraph 4.

If the Spanish ever saw this wonderful place, they would have surely written about it.

Which point is the author supporting by including this sentence?

- A. He thinks the Spanish found Machu Picchu.
- B. He believes someone found Machu Picchu but did not write about it.
- C. He thinks he was the first to find Machu Picchu.
- D. He believes no one other than the Incas had seen Machu Picchu until the early 1900s because no one had written about it before that time.

Reading Comprehension total _____ of 6 points

To receive a point for a two-part question (i.e., 1 and 2) students must correctly answer both parts of the question.

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Grammar

For each sentence, draw a vertical line separating the subject and predicate. Circle the entire subject. Draw a wiggly line under the entire predicate.

1. Archaeologists study the remains of past civilizations.
2. Spanish letters and records provide information about early American civilizations.

Read the pairs of sentences about the Maya myth “The Creation of the Earth” following the chart. If the information in a pair of sentences is similar, combine the sentences using a word or phrase that compares. If the information in a pair of sentences is different, combine the sentences using a word or phrase that contrasts.

Words and Phrases That Compare	Words and Phrases That Contrast
similar to	however
similarly	in contrast
likewise	on the contrary
in the same way,	alternatively
just as	whereas
at the same time	instead
also	on the other hand
additionally	but

3. The gods were pleased with how the clay people looked. The gods were not pleased that the clay people could not walk.

4. The gods were pleased that the wooden people looked like humans. The gods were pleased that the wooden people talked like humans.

5. The gods were pleased that the corn people could think, hear, speak, and see. The gods were not pleased that the corn people's vision was even better than their own vision.

For each pair of sentences, circle the subject, underline the action verb with a straight line, and underline the linking verb with a wiggly line.

6. The Inca divided their empire into four quarters. Some quarters were larger than others.
7. The Inca Empire began in the Andes Mountains. The Andes Mountains are high and tall.
8. The tropics are near the equator. Mesoamerica lies north of the Equator.

Grammar total _____ of 8 points

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2.3

Unit 2
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Morphology

Write the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. Potatoes served as food for the Inca year round. They were a(n) _____
(regular, irregular, legal, illegal)
part of the Inca diet.
2. Mesoamerica is a(n) _____ name for the area where the Maya and
(legible, illegible, logical, illogical)
Aztec lived because Mesoamerica means Middle America.
3. Conquistadors Cortés and Pizarro were _____ explorers who
(coastal, intercoastal, national, international)
left their homeland to establish colonies for the Spanish king.
4. Maya cities were places where people could _____ with one another to
(interact, act, interflow, flow)
exchange goods and ideas.
5. Archaeologists were able to _____ King Pakal's death mask from the
(attract, extract, tractor, subtract)
rubble in his tomb.
6. Beautiful pictures from an 1800s explorer seemed to _____ Hiram
(distract, retract, tractor, attract)
Bingham to Peru.

Morphology total _____ of 6 points

Unit Assessment total _____ of 20 points

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Answer Key

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4. I find this pure, undecorated surface to be mysteriously beautiful. The mason who built the wall did not have the same kinds of tools available that masons have today. He had no instruments of precision, so he had to depend on his eye. He had a good eye, an artistic eye, an eye for symmetry and beauty of form. His product lacks the harshness of mechanical and mathematical accuracy. The rectangular blocks are not really rectangular. The straight lines of the rows are not actually straight in the exact sense of that term.

5. I was amazed at how fine this wall and its adjoining semicircular temple over the cave were. They were as fine as the finest stonework in the famous Temple of the Sun in Cuzco. I continued to be surprised as I went farther. I climbed a marvelous great stairway of large granite blocks. Then I walked along a prairie where indigenous people had a small vegetable garden, and came into a little clearing. Here were the ruins of two of the finest structures I have ever seen in Peru. They were made of selected blocks of beautifully grained white granite. Their walls contained huge stones, ten feet in length, and higher than a man. The sight held me spellbound.

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6. ... It seems incredible that this place remained undescribed by travelers for so long. It also seems incredible that it was relatively unknown to the Peruvians themselves. It was less than three days' journey from Cuzco. If the Spanish ever saw this wonderful place, they would have surely written about it. However, nothing can be found which clearly refers to the ruins of Machu Picchu. No one is sure when a Spanish-speaking person first saw it. People believe that several explorers came close to Machu Picchu, but missed it. The earliest local record of someone discovering Machu Picchu is from 1902. In that year, Agustín Lizárraga wrote his name on the walls of one of the finest buildings. Yet some one must have visited Machu Picchu long before that. In 1875, as has been said, the French explorer Charles Wiener heard of there being ruins at "Huaina-Picchu or Matcho-Picchu." He tried to find them but he failed. He did not reach Machu Picchu because there was no road through a nearby canyon. Also, he had to make a wide detour through another valley. His route brought him to the Urubamba River, twenty-five miles below Machu Picchu.
7. Adapted from Bingham, Hiram. *Inca Land: Explorations in the Highlands of Peru*. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company and The Riverside Press Cambridge, 1922.

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Questions

The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

1. **Part A:** In paragraph 2 of excerpt 1, the author states he hopes that his photographs inspire others. What is the meaning of the word *inspire*?

- ☒ A. to make someone want to do something
B. to scare someone from doing something
C. to make someone take a picture of something
D. to explore a mysterious place

Part B: Which phrases from paragraph 2 of excerpt 1 best help the reader determine the meaning of *inspire*? [Choose two.]

- A. the imaginative pencil
B. relatively unknown region
☒ C. to further explore
☒ D. lead future travelers
E. some wonderful pictures
F. in the stories
G. "the Cradle of the Incas"

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The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

2. **Part A:** Based on *Inca Land: Explorations of the Highlands of Peru*, what inference can be made about how the author felt about the stone walls at Machu Picchu?
- A. He wished the stone walls had been discovered sooner.
B. He had great admiration and respect for the people who built the walls.
C. He believed someone had discovered the stone walls but kept them secret.
☒ D. He believed marble walls would have been too expensive to build.

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Part B: In the text, circle the paragraph that provides evidence for the answer you selected above.

3. In the excerpts from *Inca Land: Explorations of the Highlands of Peru*, the author gives some reasons for why someone should have discovered Machu Picchu before the early 1900s and also gives some reasons for why more people had not discovered Machu Picchu sooner. The headings in the chart below list these two different ideas. Complete each row of the chart by writing facts and details from the text to support each idea.

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People believed that several explorers came close to Machu Picchu, but missed it.	[The author] had to cross harsh and cold Andes Mountains, where there are heavy snowfalls and low temperatures.
In 1875, as has been said, the French explorer Charles Wiener heard of there being ruins at "Huaina-Picchu or Matcho-Picchu."	[The author] also had to wind [his] way through gigantic canyons into the dense jungles of the Amazon Basin.

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4. In the excerpts from *Inca Land: Explorations of the Highlands of Peru*, the author gives one piece of evidence for the discovery of Machu Picchu. Underline the sentence in the excerpt that best supports how we know when Machu Picchu was probably first discovered.
5. In paragraph 5 of the excerpt from *Inca Land: Explorations of the Highlands of Peru*, what is the meaning of the word *spellbound*?
- A. scared
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D. strengthened
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C. He thinks he was the first to find Machu Picchu.
D. He believes no one other than the Incas had seen Machu Picchu until the early 1900s because no one had written about it before that time.

Reading Comprehension total _____ of 6 points

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2.2

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Grammar

For each sentence, draw a vertical line separating the subject and predicate. Circle the entire subject. Draw a wiggly line under the entire predicate.

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2. Spanish letters and records provide information about early American civilizations.

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Words and Phrases That Compare	Words and Phrases That Contrast
similar to	however
similarly	in contrast
likewise	on the contrary
in the same way,	alternatively
just as	whereas
at the same time	instead
also	on the other hand
additionally	but

3. The gods were pleased with how the clay people looked. The gods were not pleased that the clay people could not walk.
- Answers may vary but should combine the two sentences using a word or phrase that contrasts.

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4. The gods were pleased that the wooden people looked like humans. The gods were pleased that the wooden people talked like humans.
- Answers may vary but should combine the two sentences using a word or phrase that compares.
5. The gods were pleased that the corn people could think, hear, speak, and see. The gods were not pleased that the corn people's vision was even better than their own vision.
- Answers may vary but should combine the two sentences using a word or phrase that contrasts.

For each pair of sentences, circle the subject, underline the action verb with a straight line, and underline the linking verb with a wiggly line.

6. The Inca divided their empire into four quarters. Some quarters were larger than others.
7. The Inca Empire began in the Andes Mountains. The Andes Mountains are high and tall.
8. The tropics are near the equator. Mesoamerica lies north of the Equator.

Grammar total _____ of 8 points

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Morphology

Write the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. Potatoes served as food for the Inca year round. They were a(n) regular
(regular, irregular, legal, illegal)
part of the Inca diet.
2. Mesoamerica is a(n) logical
(legible, illegible, logical, illogical)
name for the area where the Maya and
Aztec lived because Mesoamerica means Middle America.
3. Conquistadors Cortés and Pizarro were international
(coastal, intercoastal, national, international)
explorers who
left their homeland to establish colonies for the Spanish king.
4. Maya cities were places where people could interact
(interact, act, interflow, flow)
with one another to
exchange goods and ideas.
5. Archaeologists were able to extract
(attract, extract, tractor, subtract)
King Pakal's death mask from the
rubble in his tomb.
6. Beautiful pictures from an 1800s explorer seemed to attract
(distract, retract, tractor, attract)
Hiram
Bingham to Peru.

Morphology total _____ of 6 points

Unit Assessment total _____ of 20 points

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