Introduction: Brief Description of the Unit
This unit begins with the “Classic Era Culture and Society in Mesoamerica, 200-900”. This unit will be incorporated into their study of Chapter 11, “Peoples and Civilizations of the Americas, 600-1500”, from their text, The Earth and Its Peoples. This first lesson will have been outlined by the students in their notebooks and supplemented by video, and a secondary reading and discussion.

Geographic Connections:
This unit will introduce the geography of Mesoamerica and South America

Vocabulary: Terms, Concepts and Actors
Olmec, Teotihuacan, chinampas, Maya, logo-syllabic, Toltecs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage 1 – Desired Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content Standard(s):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 2 - World History – use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in world history and examine the broad sweep of history from a variety of perspectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 3 – Geography – use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of the geography of the interdependent world in which we live – local, national, and global – including the distribution of people, places, and environments over the Earth’s surface.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Understanding (s)/Goals:**
Students will understand that:
- The Maya were an advanced civilization subject to an intense period of achievements and suffered a collapse.
- The Maya developed a written language that was a logo-syllabic system.
- The Maya developed a complex number system that was a base 20 system.
- The relocation of the Maya to the Yucatan continued to enhance their culture.

**Essential Question(s) Related to Theme(s):**
- What were the most important shared characteristics of Mesoamerican cultures in the class period?
- How were the writing and numeral systems used in Mayan society?
- What technology was used in the construction of the Mayan cities?
- What role did warfare play in the post-classic period of Mesoamerica?
- What factors led to the collapse of the Classic period of the Maya?

**Student Objectives (Outcomes):**
Students will be able to:
- Identify the geographic factors involved in building the Maya civilization
- Understand the significance of the culture of the Maya in relation to their environment and history
- Understand the complexity of Maya society.
- Discuss the contributing factors to the Maya collapse
### Stage 2 – Assessment Evidence

**Performance Task(s):**
- Students will enhance their knowledge of the Maya through their text reading and “The Maya Collapses”, Jared Diamond’s Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed
- Interpretation of Maya hieroglyphs and numbers
- Students will view “Engineering an Empire- Death Empire”
- View examples of Maya art and architecture

**Other Evidence:**
- Background reading from their textbook, The Earth and Its Peoples, Chapter 11, “Peoples and Civilizations of the Americas, 200-1500
- Paragraph writing supporting one of Diamond’s reasons for the Maya Collapse
- A multiple choice/vocabulary quiz at the end of the chapter

### Stage 3 – Learning Plan

**Learning Activities:**
- Students will review their chapter outlines on both the Olmec and the Maya.
- In class, students will examine multiple slides of Mayan sites and discuss the importance of Mayan architecture.
- Students will examine the writing and number systems of the Maya and have an opportunity to write and interpret some examples of both systems.
- Students will view and take notes on “Engineering an Empire: Maya Death Empire” for general discussion.
- Students will read and outline “The Maya Collapses” chapter from Jared Diamond’s Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed”, then write a paragraph supporting one of the reasons given by Diamond for the collapse.

### Resource List/Bibliography:


 Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed”, Diamond, Jared

Engineering an Empire: Maya Death Empire, The History Channel, DVD series

Handouts of Maya hieroglyphs, source Megan O’Neil, including “Ancient Maya Writing, Your Name in Maya Hieroglyphs and Syllabary