

Lesson Plan: Introduction to Maya Civilization

Aim

Students will learn about the history and culture of the Maya Civilization and its impact on the world today.

Objectives

1. Students will be able to identify the major cities and civilizations of the Maya culture.
2. Students will be able to explain the major aspects of Maya culture, including religion, agriculture, architecture, and art.
3. Students will be able to discuss the impact of the Maya civilization on modern society.
4. Students will be able to compare and contrast the Maya civilization with other ancient cultures.

Possible Materials Needed

1. Textbook or educational handouts on the Maya civilization
2. Pictures of the major cities and ruins of the Maya civilization
3. Maya vocabulary sheet
4. Introduction to the Maya Civilization Powerpoint Presentation
5. Short Video on the Maya Civilization

Anticipatory Set

1. Begin the lesson by introducing the concept of the Maya Civilization and its importance in world history. Ask the class to consider the characteristics of Maya culture and how it differs from other ancient cultures. Discuss the major cities and civilizations of the Maya, including Palenque, Tikal, Chichen Itza, and Copan.
2. Discuss the major aspects of Maya culture, including religion, agriculture, architecture, and art. Ask the class to consider how these aspects were used by the Maya and how they might have been different from other cultures.
3. Lastly, ask the class to consider the impact that the Maya civilization has had on modern society. Discuss how the Maya have influenced modern architecture, art, and culture in countries such as Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Modeled Practice

1. The teacher can provide an example of a Maya ruin and discuss the different aspects of the ruin. Ask the class to identify the different parts of the ruin and what they might have been used for. Ask the class to consider how the ruin might have been used for religious ceremonies or agricultural purposes.
2. The teacher can provide a hands-on activity to help students understand the concept of Maya art and architecture. The teacher can pass out construction paper, markers, and other craft materials and ask the students to create their own version of a Maya ruin. Ask the students to consider how the architecture might have been used for religious ceremonies or agricultural purposes.
3. The teacher can provide a discussion-based activity to help the students understand the impact of the Maya civilization on modern society. Ask the class to consider how the Maya have influenced modern architecture, art, and culture in countries such as Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. Discuss how the Maya have influenced the modern world in terms of language, food, and culture.

Guided Practice

1. Divide the class into small groups and assign each group a major city and civilization of the Maya culture. Ask each group to research the city and create a poster that includes information about the city, its architecture, religion, and art. Ask the students to consider how the city might have been used for religious ceremonies or agricultural purposes.
2. Divide the students into small groups and assign each group an aspect of Maya culture (religion, agriculture, architecture, art). Ask each group to research their assigned aspect and create a presentation that explains their findings. Ask each group to present their presentations to the class and discuss how the aspect might have been different from other cultures.
3. Ask each student to write a paper that explores the impact of the Maya civilization on modern society. Ask the students to consider how the Maya have influenced modern architecture, art, and culture in countries such as Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. Ask the students to also consider how the Maya have influenced the modern world in terms of language, food, and culture.

Independent Practice

1. Ask each student to create a timeline of the major events in Maya history. The timeline should include information on the major cities, wars, and changes in culture that occurred over time.
2. Ask each student to research a particular aspect of Maya culture (religion, agriculture, architecture, art) and write an essay that explains how it has had an impact on modern society.
3. Ask each student to compare and contrast the Maya civilization with another ancient culture. The student should include information on how the cultures differed in terms of architecture, religion, agriculture, and art and how they might have interacted with each other.

Common Areas of Struggle

When it comes to learning about the Maya civilization, the most common struggle is understanding the different aspects of Maya culture and how they interacted with each other. Students may also have difficulty understanding the impact of the Maya civilization on modern society. Another area where students struggle to comprehend is how the Maya civilization has had an influence on modern architecture, art, and culture.

Ensure that students are given plenty of opportunity to research and discuss the different aspects of Maya culture. Provide plenty of examples and visuals to help students better understand the concept. Encourage students to ask questions and engage in discussions about the Maya civilization.

Closure

At the end of the lesson, the teacher can ask the class to complete a writing prompt that asks them to consider how the Maya civilization has had an impact on modern society. Ask the students to consider how the Maya have influenced modern architecture, art, and culture in countries such as Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. The teacher can also assign a quiz to assess the students' understanding of the concepts discussed in the lesson. It is important to provide students with feedback on their work so that they can understand what areas they need to focus on and improve.

Be sure to ask questions often related to the common areas of struggle.