

5th Grade Complex Societies Inquiry

What Makes A Complex Society Complex?		
Staging the Question: Discuss examples of complexity in our society today, noting things that have changed recently in society and how those things are connected, for example, cell phones and the Internet.		
Social Studies Practices	● Gathering, Using, and Interpreting Evidence ● Comparison and Contextualization ● Geographic Reasoning	
Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3
How did the Maya use writing to represent activities in their culture?	What did the Aztecs do to master their watery environment?	Why were roads important to the Inca Empire?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Write a paragraph describing how the Maya used writing and how others have worked to understand it.	Make a chart of the benefits of swamp agriculture and the use of <i>chinampas</i> .	Make a diagram illustrating how the Inca road system functioned and how Inca runners used that system.
<i>Integration of Inquiry Process and Skills</i>		
Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3
Connect: States what is known about the characteristics of a complex society and makes connections to prior knowledge about a recent innovation or change in society.	Connect: Uses sources to acquire background information and brainstorm ideas for further inquiry about what the Aztecs did to master their watery environment. Graphic Organizer: Connect#11	Connect: Generates a list of key words for a research-based project about why roads were important to the Inca Empire, including how the road system functioned and how Inca runners used that system. Graphic Organizer: Connect#10
Wonder: Predicts answers to inquiry question about how the Maya used writing to represent activities in their culture based on background knowledge and beginning observation. Graphic Organizer: Wonder#7	Wonder: Predicts answers to inquiry question about what the Aztecs did to master their watery environment based on background knowledge and beginning observation. Graphic Organizer: Wonder#7	Wonder: Forms tentative thesis about why roads were important to the Inca Empire with guidance.
Investigate: Interprets information taken from visuals about how the Maya used writing to represent activities in their culture by examining examples of Maya writing.	Investigate: Finds facts and briefly summarizes them to answer research questions about what the Aztecs did to master their watery environment while examining descriptions, illustrations and photographs of <i>chinampas</i> . Graphic Organizer: Investigate#7	Investigate: Use navigation tools of a website to find information about how the Inca road system functioned and how Inca runners used that system. Graphic Organizer: Investigate#44 C3 Resources
Construct: Writes a paragraph describing how the Maya used writing and how others have worked to understand it.	Construct: Draws a conclusion about the benefits of swamp agriculture and the use of <i>chinampas</i> with guidance. Graphic Organizer: Construct#2	Construct: Identifies facts and details that support the importance of roads to the Inca Empire. Graphic Organizer: Construct#11
Express:	Express: Makes a chart of the benefits of swamp agriculture and the use of <i>chinampas</i> .	Express: Makes a diagram illustrating how the Inca road system functioned and how Inca runners used that system.
Reflect:	Reflect:	Reflect: Identifies own strengths and sets goals for improvement. Graphic Organizer: Reflect#14
Summative Performance Task: Argument: What makes a complex society complex? Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, or essay) that explains what makes societies complex using specific claims and relevant evidence from historical sources. Extension: Prepare a diagram or a chart that illustrates the complexity of one or more of the societies featured in this inquiry.		