**Key Concepts:**

The key concepts of this social studies unit are that students are learning through the venues of self-discovery and inquiry. The students are not seen as blank slates, rather they are viewed as knowledgeable and respected individuals of the learning community. They key is to build on the knowledge they already have in various ways to allow students to learn through multiple perspectives.

**Key Assessments:**

The most frequently used assessment tool throughout the unit is the rubric. Students will be graded on their timelines, Venn diagrams, journal entries and model projects with the use of rubrics. Rubrics provide students with clear expectations and help guide them through their work while still allowing for creativity and students to use their unique talents and knowledge on each activity. In addition to the rubric students will be assessed using questions of the day and participation in group discussion. The questions of the day assess students’ prior knowledge as well as how they can apply their learning from the previous days to the current question. This also applies to group discussion. Assessments are done throughout the unit, as discussed in the Wiggens and McTighe backwards design article, not just towards the end of the unit. This way learning goals are more sharply defined and students clearly understand the learning goals.

**Resources:**

<http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=b52777d5-937b-4a3b-b0fc-7dbe58be3d73>

<http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=CED9715D-E9A7-4C06-BFAA-6DAE353B3071&blnFromSearch=1&productcode=US> (Aztec Empire Clip only)

Phillips, C. (2007). *The everyday life of the aztec and maya*. Southwater.

Culbert, P. (1993). *Maya civilization*. St. Remy Press.

Gonzalez, C. (1993). *Inca civilization*. Childrens Press.

Mead, C. (2002). *Old civilizations of inca land*. Book Tree.

Baquedano , E. (1993). *Aztec, inca and maya*. Random House Children's Books.

<http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=EAAA800B-7AF3-4CD7-A885-4159D069038E&blnFromSearch=1&productcode=US>

<http://mayaincaaztec.com/>

<http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/incaroad/>

Mason, A. (2001). *Ancient civilizations of the americas*. Dorling Kindersley.

<http://mayas.mrdonn.org/dailylife.html>

<http://www.dirla.com/hondurasmaya.htm>

<http://www.indians.org/welker/aztec.htm>

<http://incas.mrdonn.org/empire.html>

<http://www.mythicjourneys.org/bigmyth/myths/english/eng_inca_culture.htm>

<http://teacherweb.com/VA/OldDominionUniversity/MayasAztecsIncasWQ/ap6.aspx>

<http://www.teacheroz.com/Meso_Latin.htm>