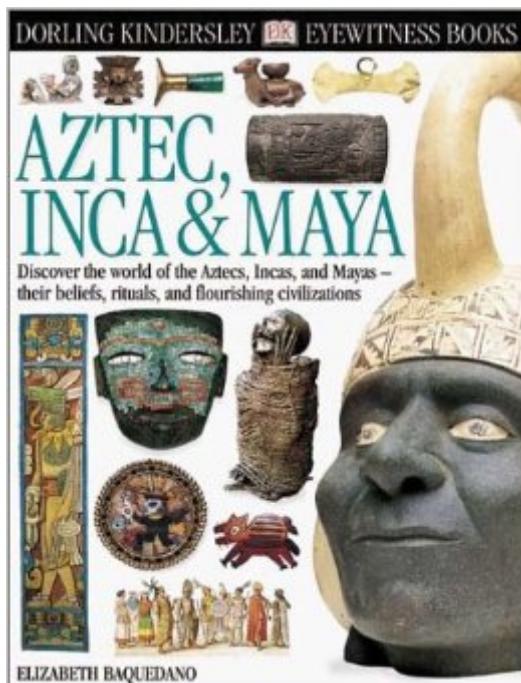


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# Aztec, Inca & Maya (Eyewitness Books)



## **Synopsis**

Discover the world of the Aztecs, Incas and Mayas -- their beliefs, rituals and flourishing civilizations. Here is an original and exciting guide to the Aztecs, Incas, and Mayas -- and the people who went before them. Stunning full-color photographs of weapons and tools, sculpture, metalwork and ceramics offer a unique "eyewitness" view of these rich and complex civilizations. See an Aztec sacrificial knife, a Teotihuacan mask made from turquoise and coral, a life-size statue of an eagle warrior and a Peruvian mummy bundle. Learn what a Mayan market looked like, why jade was so valuable to the people of Mesoamerica, the techniques used by Aztec goldsmiths and why the quetzal bird was so important. Discover why the Aztecs made human sacrifices, how to play the ball game, what sort of clothes Mayan women wore and how the Mayan calendar worked. And much, much more!

## **Book Information**

Series: DK Eyewitness Books

Hardcover: 64 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.4 x 11.1 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,145,836 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Mexico #1029 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Ancient #1090 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Cultural Studies > General

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

My assumption is that a DK Eyewitness Book entitled "Aztec, Inca & Maya" would devote sections to each of the three great civilizations that Spanish explorers encountered and eradicated in the 16th century. The Aztec empire stretched between the Pacific and the Atlantic costs of Mesoamerica, the Maya kingdom was found in the eastern part of Mesoamerica, and the Inca

Empire stretched 4,000 miles along the western coast of South America. But this book considers the people of these regions to be a mosaic of tribes and nations so that most of the chapters are topical, talking about food and drink, religious life, masks, and such in terms of all of the cultures that apply. There are a few specific chapters devoted to the Incas and their ancestors and Cities of the Andes, but most toss in everything together. I have to admit, I do not find this approach to work anymore than one about Mediterranean cultures that lumps Spain, Italy and Greece together with the likes of Portugal, Sicily, and Crete thrown in for good measure. In this volume the Olmecs, Teotihuacans, and Toltecs are thrown in for good measure, but not so that you can have anything close to a clear conception of the specific cultures. There are some topics where it makes sense to talk about multiple cultures, such as the Human sacrifice by the Incas and Aztecs, but that does not apply to all of these topics. Consequently, I am tempted to get different colored highlighters and color code the three main cultures throughout the book so it is easier to make the connections. As always, the chief attraction of this Eyewitness Book is that it is filled with photographs of artifacts from museums around the world, from the Archaeological Museum in Lima the National Palace in Mexico City to the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale in Florence and the Rietberg Museum in Zurich (a subtle reminder that a lot of New World treasures made their way to Europe). Most of us will never get to see a Toltec coyote warrior inlaid with mother-of-pearl, the Gateway of the Sun at Tiahuanaco, or a "teponaztli" (horizontal drum) in person. "The Los Angeles Times Book Review" called one of these volumes "Like a mini-museum between the covers of a book," which is so on point that DK always puts that quote on the back. Almost as important, Elizabeth Bauedano provides detailed captions for the illustrations so that you know what you are looking at and what it means. Consequently "Aztec, Inca & Maya" works better as a supplemental source than as an introduction to these fascinating civilizations.

I'm a huge fan of the DK Eyewitness series, but even so, I could not like this book despite the usual gorgeous photographs. The pages were arranged thematically and the different cultures (Aztec, Inca, Maya, Toltec, Olmec, Moche, Mixtec, Nazca...) were so intermixed that it became painful to keep which was which straight--and I already knew a nontrivial amount about most of them! The SLJ wrote in their review, "Although the pictures are bright, clear, and attention grabbing, the text is just random facts scattered across the pages. These majestic cultures are done a disservice by this weightless flitting from topic to topic." I couldn't agree more. SKIP this one!

This is another in the delightful series of Eyewitness books for children. It is beautifully illustrated

with excellent photographs and a terrific collection of illustrations taken from modern and historical sources. However, this book tries to cover too much in the allotted space. The book shows examples of clothing, tools, architecture, religion and arts from all 3 cultures (Maya, Aztec & Inca). Unfortunately, the book also includes examples from cultures preceding and succeeding these great civilizations such as the Moche, Mixtec, Toltec, Olmec and Nazca. This makes for a somewhat confusing situation, and you wish for a timeline and map to show when and where all these peoples are located. All in all, it's a very eye-catching book. I do suggest for future editions the Eyewitness folks should consider books that concentrate specifically on the Maya, Aztec or Inca, or at least one volume on Mexico and Mesoamerica and one volume on Peru.

I buy books to donate to local schools and I know I will never go wrong with a DK Eyewitness book. They are informative, interesting and entertaining and they whet the appetite to seek out further information. All classrooms should have a collection of these books and if you donate books to local schools or after-school programs, you'll get the best bang for your buck with ANY book published by DK Eyewitness Books.

All the eyewitness books are awesome. I wish I had the money for the new ones that come with the CD Roms, but that's why the old ones (that are all the same text) are so much cheaper, so I'll take it!.

I am an ESOL teacher who has to teach about a variety of topics daily. I am currently teaching about Native Americans and this book helped quite a bit with teaching about Maya, Aztecs and the Inca. The topic is so absorbing, I'm having trouble fitting the North Americans in! The pictures and artifacts are very interesting and I thought well presented. I think we have mostly small items related to these civilizations so it is hard to see how Eyewitness could have differentiated them more. I could be wrong but think this book was really helpful to my students. They have little concept of these cultures as all come from Asia. It's fun and not as boring as they thought.

I am an adult who found the book a quick and easy way to be introduced to a subject I did not know much about. I am using it to discuss Mexican artists during student and adult tours at my local art museum.

Quick delivery. Good service. My grandson is enjoying this book immensely. This series of books is

excellent. I highly recommend these to anyone, even adults. They are brimming with information.

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