



Archaeologist: Farming Practices and Incan Civilization

Adventure Description:

In this adventure, you will think like an archaeologist and create an animated video to present at an international archaeology conference on ancient civilizations.

Activity

Teacher notes:

- You will need an account set up on Animaker. See [Handout: How to Use Animaker](#). It should take no more than 10 minutes to set up an account.
- This activity is long and can be broken up across multiple days.

Step 1: Background on the Incan Civilization (5 minutes)

- Show [Video: Farming Practices and Incan Civilization](#).
- Ask students why archaeologists would want to study farming practices from the Incan civilization
 - Many civilizations were successful because they were able to farm and grow crops well.
 - Civilizations developed innovative technologies and methods for the time because they focused on farming, such as growing crops in the mountains.

Step 2: Activity Set Up (5+ minutes)

- Explain to students that archaeologists and other professionals attend conferences. A conference is a meeting where people talk about their research, learn from others, and share ideas. Conferences can be one day or multiple days. Typically, a boss or company pays for someone to attend a conference.
- Explain to students that they will imagine they are archaeologists who are going to a conference for researchers who study ancient civilizations.
- Show [Handout: Email from the Conference Director](#). Explain to students that they will imagine that they received this email from the person in charge of the conference. Read through the email together.
- Explain to students that they will create an animated video that will be shown during the conference. The animated video should have a serious, professional tone.
- Provide students with [Handout: Creating an Animated Video](#). As a class, review the steps. Discuss how students will come up with a claim about the Incan civilization. A claim is an argument or statement that is backed up by evidence. Explain to students that they will use sources from [Handout: Sources on the Incan Civilization](#). These sources can be used as evidence to back up their claim.
- Teacher note: If students have not created a claim before, discuss the following:
 - A claim is an argument or statement that is backed up by evidence.
 - A claim is something that can be disputed. Explain that the statement "Strawberries are a type of fruit" is not a claim because it is not disputed. It is a fact that is widely accepted. However, the statement "If a society doesn't have trade, it will fail" is a claim because it can be disputed. People might argue that a society can survive without trade.
 - A claim is backed up by evidence. Archaeologist and other professionals have to carefully choose evidence that will support their claim.

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Step 3: Planning and Brainstorming (20+ minutes)

- Divide students into pairs or small groups. Explain to students that they will now brainstorm and plan what their video will be about. Have students complete the steps on the handout.
- As students are working, discuss the following:
 - What part of Incan civilization will you focus on for your video?
 - What is your central message about the Incan people?
 - How will your 4 scenes tell a story about how the Incan people lived?

Step 4: Designing Video (25+ minutes)

- Teacher note: This step will most likely be completed on a separate day. It can also be completed for homework or as a take-home project.
- Explain to students that they will now design their video using a computer program called Animaker.
- Provide students with the log in information for Animaker.
- Have students create their animated videos.

Step 5: Class Discussion and Presentations (5+ minutes)

- Have students volunteer to present their videos to the class. You can also create a private Youtube channel to post the videos for family members and other students to see.
- Have a concluding class discussion about what farming practices can tell us about the Incan civilization.

Materials List

Provided online:

- Video: Farming Practices and Incan Civilization
- Handout: How to Use Animaker
- Handout: Email from the Conference Director
- Handout: Creating an Animated Video
- Handout: Sources on the Incan Civilization

Not provided online:

- Animaker.com
- Computer for each student

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