



Grades 2-5

Aztec Civilization

Learning Lapbook



A Journey Through Learning
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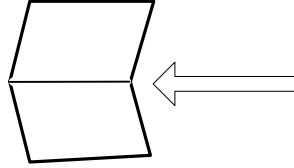
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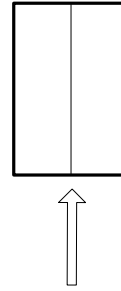
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Things to Know

Hamburger Fold-Fold horizontally



Hotdog Fold-Fold vertically



Dotted Lines-These are the cutting lines.

Accordion Fold-This fold is like making a paper fan. Fold on the first line so that title is on top. Turn over and fold on next line so that title is on top again. Turn over again and fold again on the next line so that title is on top. Continue until all folds are done.

Cover Labels-Most of the booklets that are folded look nicer with a label on top instead of just a blank space. They will be referred to as "cover label."

How Long Does it Take to Complete the Lapbook?

Doing a study guide page and mini-booklet a day, a 3-folder lapbook takes about one month to complete. However, you can expand the study portion and make it last as long as you like! That's the beauty of homeschooling! Do it YOUR way!

Lapbook Assembly Choices

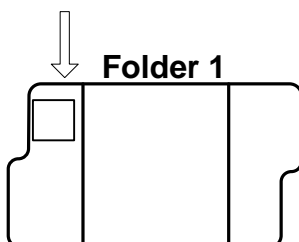
(see photos on how to fold and glue your folders together)

We recommend using Zip Dry Glue or Elmer's Extreme.

Choice #1 -Do not glue your folders together until you have completely finished all three folders. It is easier to work with one folder instead of two or three glued together.

Choice #2 -Glue all of your folders together before beginning. Some children like to see the entire project as they work on it. It helps with keeping up with which folder you are supposed to be working in. The choices are completely up to you and your child!

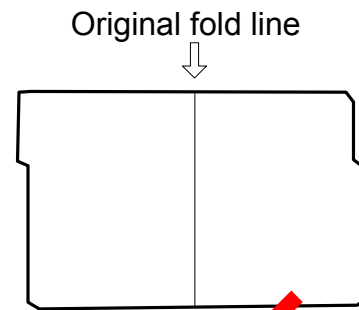
How do I know where to place each template in the folder?



This placement key tells you the template goes in the first folder at the top of the left flap.

Folding a Lapbook Base

Gather the number of folders required for the project. Fold them flat as seen here.



For each folder, fold the left and right sides inward toward the original line to create two flaps. Crease so that the highest part of each flap is touching the original line. It is important not to let the two flaps overlap. *You may want to take a ruler and run it down each crease to make it sharper.*



Glue your folders together by putting glue (or you may staple) on the inside of the flaps. Then press the newly glued flaps together with your hands until they get a good strong hold to each other. Follow this step to add as many folders as you need for your project. Most of our lapbooks have either 2 or 3 folders.

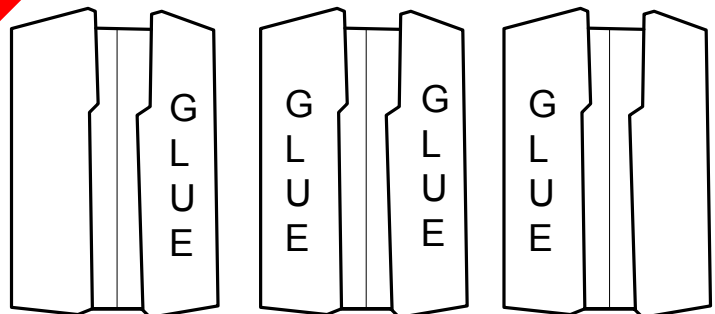
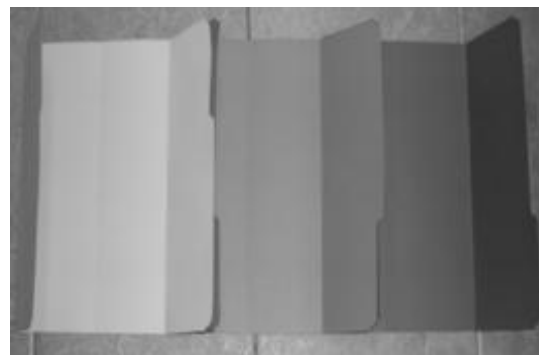


Photo of a completed lapbook base



Booklet Placement Key

Folder 1



Folder 2





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What ancient Aztec relic do you think was found hidden in the hole of this wall? Draw it on white paper, cut out, and glue onto this picture. Then cut out this picture on the dotted line. Glue on to the front of your lapbook.

Aztec Civilization

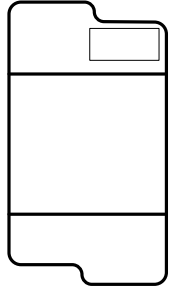
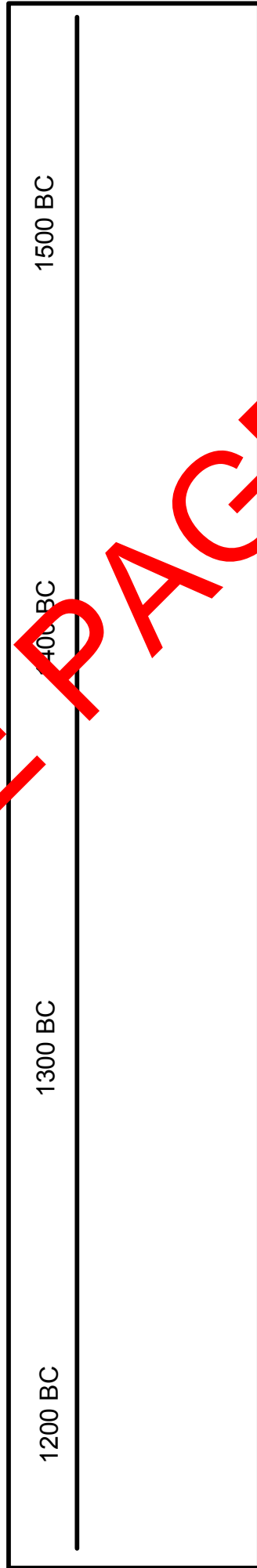
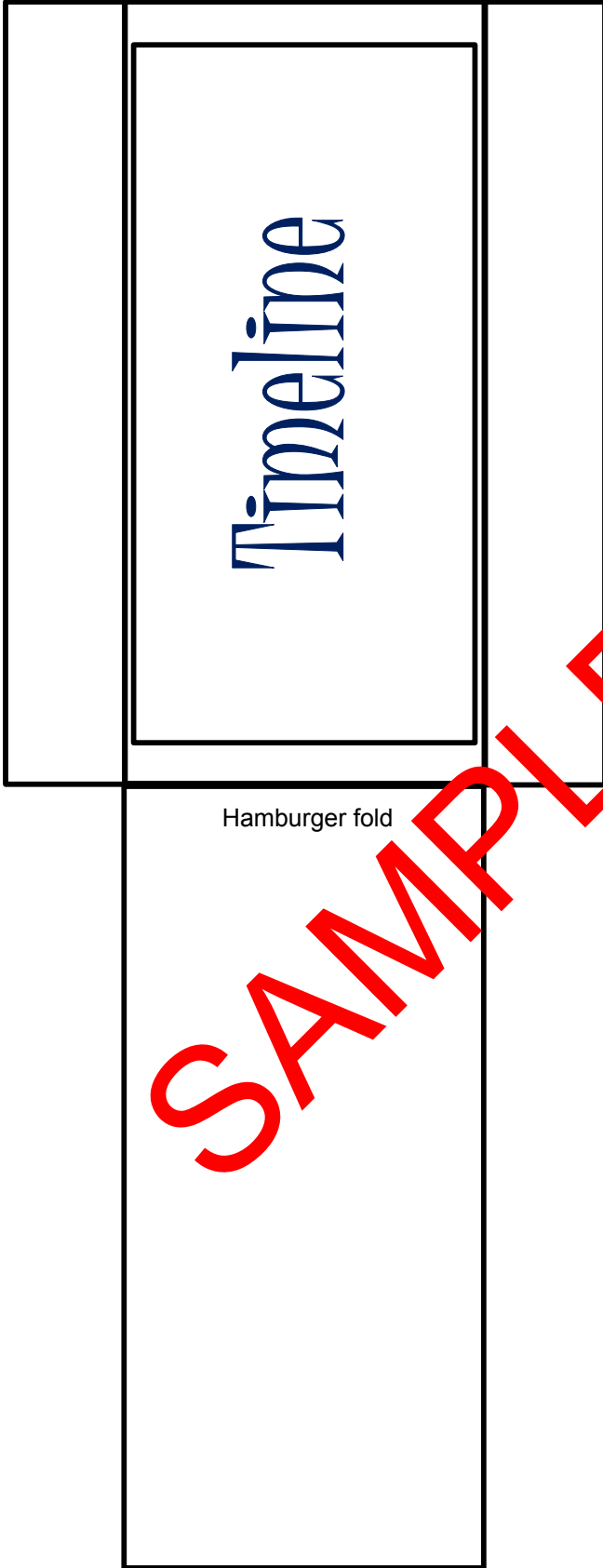


Mesoamerica

The part of the American continent between the land of central Mexico down to parts of Honduras is known as Mesoamerica. “Meso” is a word that means middle. The land of Mesoamerica is in the middle of the American continent.

In this land, a series of civilizations flourished in ancient times. Around 1500 BC the people who populated this area started to abandon the wandering life and began to settle down in permanent settlements or villages. These people discovered how to farm. Their main crops consisted of corn, chili peppers, squash, beans and cotton. They learned to weave cloth and make pottery. Their villages were small. There was probably little contact with other villages. Around the year 1200 BC a big change seem to have taken place. Around this time, pyramid-like structures were built and villages became more like towns with buildings and a large concentration of people. This seems to indicate the presence of a more complex society. This civilization, which lived and ruled in this period, is known as the Olmec.

After the Olmec civilization crumbled, the Mayans arose. The Mayans had much in common with the Olmecs but were more advanced in their intellectual endeavors. They developed a writing system, a complex calendar, and were very good at mathematics. At the time the Spanish conquistadors arrived, the ruling people were the Aztecs. The Aztecs managed to build an impressive empire.

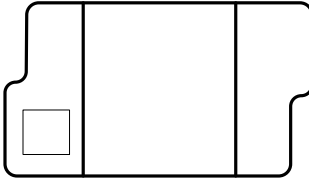


Folder 1

Read Mesoamerica.
 Cut out booklet as one piece. Fold the back bottom section up in back, and then fold the flaps back and glue to make a pocket. Cut out the timeline strip. Fold and store in pocket.
Directions: Fill out the timeline.

SAMPLE PAGE

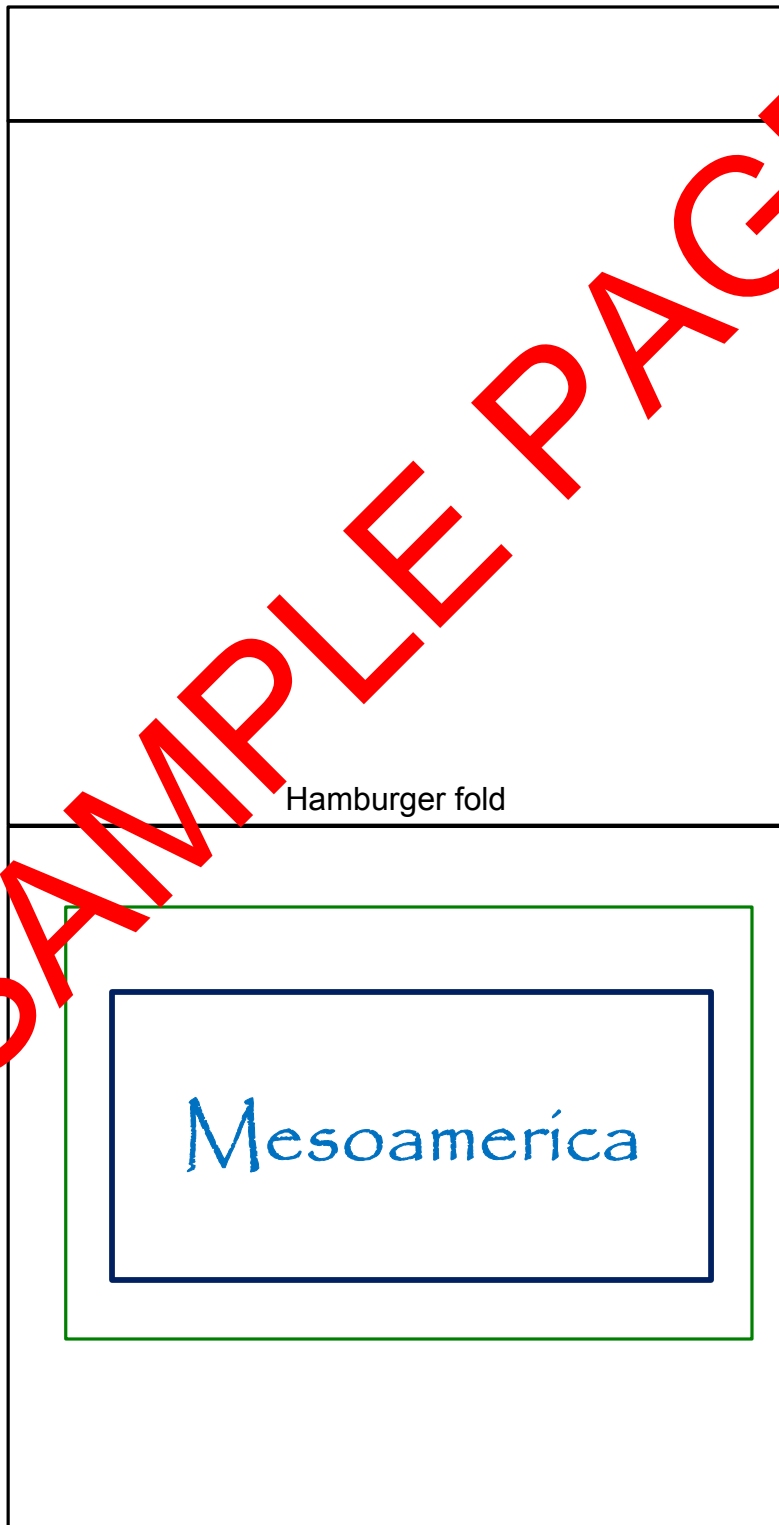
Folder 1



Read Mesoamerica.

Cut out this piece and hamburger fold on middle line. (There will be a tab sticking out. Do not cut off.) Fold tab up and over to keep booklet closed. (Like a match book) Glue into folder.

Directions: Inside of the booklet, write or draw what you have learned about Mesoamerica.



The Aztec Empire

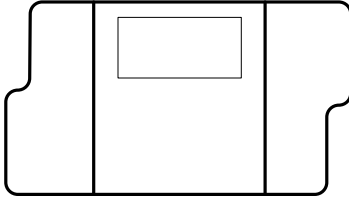
At the time the first Spanish conquistadors reached the shores of what is now Mexico, the Maya had long disappeared as the ruling power of the land. The Aztecs had become the rulers. Who were the Aztecs and where did they come from?

The Aztec Empire began with a band of wanderers that came from the north of what is known as Mexico today. This people called themselves Mexica. This band eventually found themselves at the shores of Lake Texcoco. This land was the only land that was not already taken by other groups. An ancient Aztec legend tells of how this land was chosen for them by their god.

According to the legend, the Aztecs were ready to have their own land. Their god, Huitzilopochtli, the Aztec god of the sun and war, told his people to look for an eagle perched on a cactus. The eagle would have a snake on its beak. The land where they saw the sign was going to be their land.

Finally they spotted the sign on a swampy island in the middle of Lake Texcoco. With confidence in the word of their god, the Aztecs went about reclaiming this land from the lake. They built reed rafts on the shallow parts of the lake, anchored them to the lake bed, and covered them with mud from the lake. This rich soil was perfect for growing crops. Little by little, the clever Aztecs built a magnificent city. They named it Tenochtitlan, which means “place of the cactus” in Aztec, and from there, they built their empire.

Folder 1



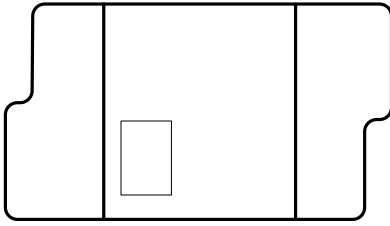
Read The Aztec Empire.

Cut out the booklet. Glue into lapbook.

Directions: Shade the area inhabited by the Aztecs green.



Folder 1



Read The Aztec Empire.

Cut out each booklet. Stack on top of each other and fasten with a brad. Glue into lapbook.

Directions: Inside of the booklet, write what you have learned about the Aztec Empire.

x

The Aztec Empire

An illustration of the Aztec Sun Stone, a large stone carved in the shape of a human figure with a face, arms, and legs, surrounded by intricate geometric patterns. It is set against a green, irregular background.

SAMPLE PAGE
