

Island Cultures

A Unit Outline

1. Identify the universals of ancient civilizations by studying Mayan, Aztec and Incan cultures, and relating them to the 10 “universals of culture”
2. Examine artifacts to see how they reflect the universals
3. Attend exhibit on Mayan art at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts
4. Study folklore for further perspective on the universals
5. Do simulation called "Looking for a Life," about departing from adult society
6. Divide students into Island groups. They make a topographical map, a physical map, and a vegetation map. They research tropical islands and decide about resources available to them. They make decisions about their culture, create an outline of their culture, and identify their universals.
7. Create artifacts that represent all aspects of the culture. Breakout sessions for group members on the use of different art forms.
8. Conquest!
9. Exchange artifacts with other groups. Students become archeologists and curators, creating a catalogue and a museum display.