

7

History-Social  
Science Standard  
7.7.1.



# Sun Gods and Jaguar Kings

## **California Education and the Environment Initiative**

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California Environmental Protection Agency  
California Natural Resources Agency  
California State Board of Education  
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### **Key Partners:**

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**LESSON 1 From Riches to Ruin—Tales of Two Cities**

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**Amaranth:** A plant grown throughout Latin America whose seeds are useful as a high protein grain.

**Amber:** Translucent yellow, orange, reddish, or brown fossilized resin that is valued as a gemstone.

**Boom:** In economic terms, a rapid increase in growth or development.

**Bust:** In economic terms, a sudden, rapid financial collapse.

**Cacao (kah-kow):** A Central-American tree whose seeds are used to make cocoa and chocolate.

**Cenote (say-noh-tay):** A sinkhole or natural well in the limestone bedrock that facilitated access to the water table by the Maya.

**Chía (chee-uh):** A plant in the mint family whose seeds are edible and highly nutritious.

**Climate:** The prevailing, average weather conditions of a particular area over time.

**Cochineal (ko-chi-nay-al):** A bright red dye made from the dried bodies of the small, cactus-feeding cochineal insect that is found primarily in Mexico.

**Copal: (koh-pahl):** A hard resin derived from tropical trees in the legume family that is used as incense and varnish.

**Economy:** Activities related to the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

**Ecosystem:** A specific area, such as a kelp forest, that contains a characteristic set of interdependent species that interact with each other and the abiotic components found there.

**Ecosystem goods:** Tangible materials, such as timber and food, produced by natural systems, that are essential to human life, economies, and cultures.

**Ecosystem services:** The functions and processes that occur in natural systems, such as pollination, that support or produce ecosystem goods and help sustain human life, economies, and cultures.

**Equator:** An imaginary line equidistant from the poles and perpendicular to the axis of Earth's rotation.

**Landform:** Any topographic feature that makes Earth's surface, such as a plain, mountain, or valley.

**Leeward:** The side of a geographic feature toward which prevailing winds blow.

**Maguey (mag-way; mah-gay):** A desert agave plant that produces fiber and a sweet, honey-like syrup distilled into tequila.

**Meso-America:** The region from northern Mexico to Central America where pre-Columbian urban civilizations once flourished.

**Natural resources:** Materials, such as soil, water, minerals, and energy, that people use from nature and natural systems.

**Nonrenewable resources:** Natural resources that are finite and exhaustible, and are not naturally replenished at a rate comparable to the rate at which it is consumed by humans.

**Obsidian:** A volcanic glass that can be used to make sharp knives and other tools.

**Pre-Columbian:** Referring to the cultures of the New World in the era before significant European influence.

## Key Unit Vocabulary

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**Quetzal (ket-sahl):** A Central-American bird; the males are known for their bright green and red feathers and long tail feathers.

**Rainshadow:** An area with little precipitation that lies on the leeward (downwind) side of a mountain.

**Renewable resources:** Natural resources, such as firewood, that are replenished at a rate comparable to the rate at which it is consumed by humans.

**Topography:** The surface features of an area, or the use of symbols and colors on a map, to show surface features of an area.

**Tribute:** Money or goods paid by one ruler or nation to another, often resulting from war or a show of force.

**Tropics:** The region of Earth between the tropics of Cancer (23°27' N latitude) and Capricorn (23°27' S latitude).

**Urban society:** The human culture and activities found in cities.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Complete the following tasks.

1. Select a California town, either Bodie or China Camp, to describe in the left column. Describe the ancient city of Copán in the right column. In each box describe the factors (physical geography, climate, resources, and resource use) that brought people to the town or city. (1 point each)

<b>City: Bodie or China Camp (circle one)</b>	<b>City: Copán</b>
<b>Boom</b>	<b>Boom</b>
<b>Physical Geography</b>	<b>Physical Geography</b>
<b>Climate</b>	<b>Climate</b>
<b>Resources</b>	<b>Resources</b>
<b>Resource Use</b>	<b>Resource Use</b>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>City: Bodie or China Camp (circle one)</b>	<b>City: Copán</b>
<b>Bust</b>	<b>Bust</b>
<b>Environmental Changes</b>	<b>Environmental Changes</b>
<b>Climate</b>	<b>Climate</b>
<b>Resources</b>	<b>Resources</b>
<b>Resource Use</b>	<b>Resource Use</b>
<b>Social factors that affected resource use</b>	<b>Social factors that affected resource use</b>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name three renewable and three nonrenewable resources discussed in these stories. (2 points)

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3. Describe one way that resources influenced the growth of **one** of these cities: Bodie, China Camp, or Copán. (3 points)

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4. How were Bodie, China Camp, and Copán similar? (2 points)

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5. How were Bodie, China Camp, and Copán different? (5 points)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

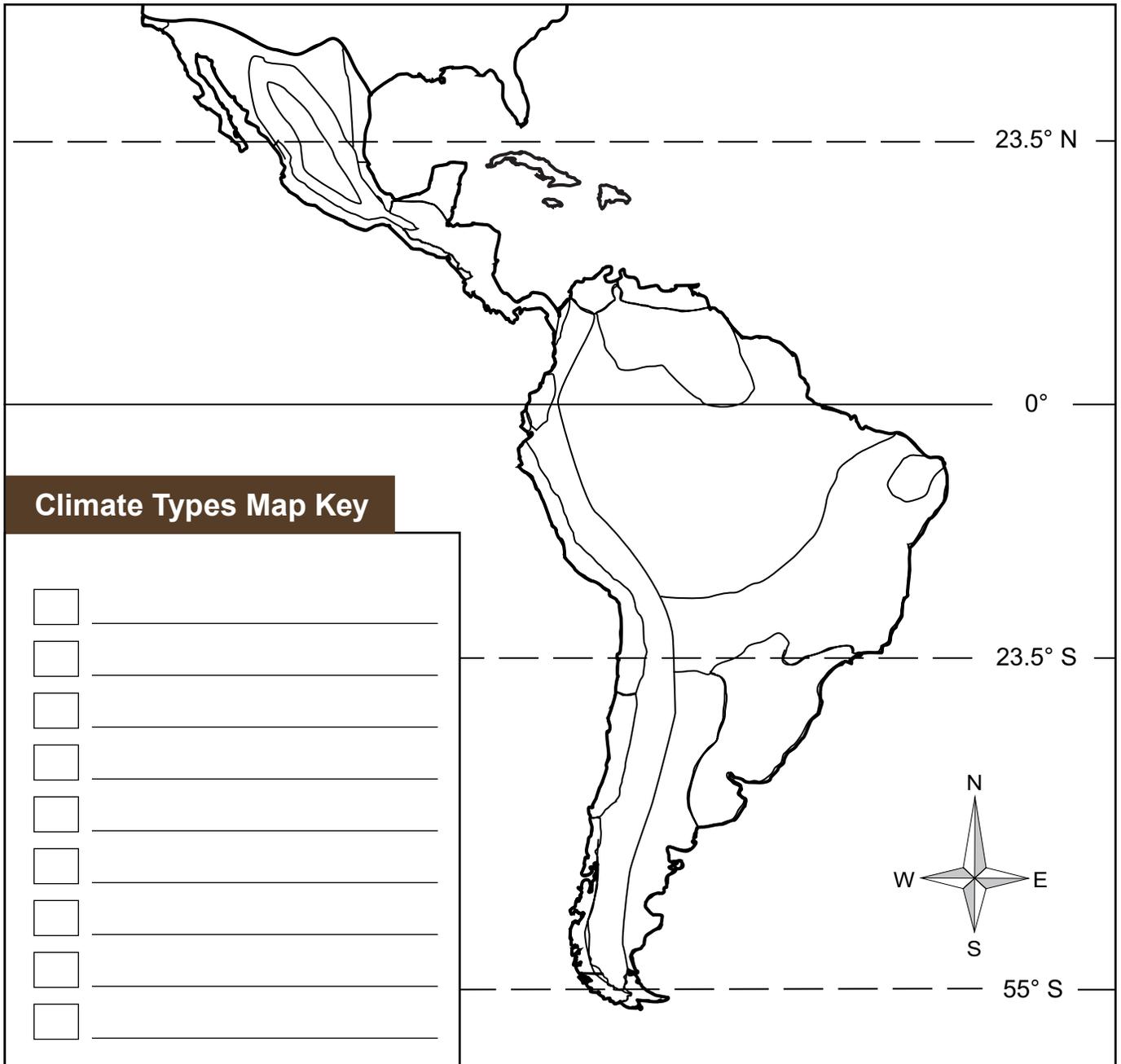
**Instructions:** Choose 12 geographic features or areas and list them in the map key. Identify the locations of these features using the map you have created. (3 points for each feature)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:**

- Read the **Overview of Climates of Mexico, Central America, and South America** and locate the regions for each climate type on the **Climates of Mexico, Central America, and South America** map.
- Label the lines of latitude for the Equator, Tropic of Cancer, and Tropic of Capricorn.
- Label the Climate Types Map Key based on the projected map. (5 points each, 45 points total)
- Use your key and the projected map as a guide and color the climates on the map below.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Use the information you have from the *Codex Mendoza* to answer the questions. Focus your answers on the Aztec.

1. Which province did you study? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name five ecosystem goods and the quantities that the people in your province paid to the Aztec leaders in Tenochtitlán. (5 points)

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3. Choose two of the ecosystem goods and write them on the lines below. For each one, identify the ecosystem or natural region that made that ecosystem good available to the Aztec people. (3 points per item)

Ecosystem good # 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Ecosystem that was the source of the good:

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Ecosystem good # 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Ecosystem that was the source of the good:

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4. What are some ecosystem goods or products that might have been valuable to a province's economy? Why? (4 points)

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## Development of Urban Societies

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** After reading about the urban society you were assigned, answer the following questions. Be prepared to share your response with the class. (5 points each)

1. Why did the population increase?

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2. How did population growth and food surpluses affect the labor force?

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3. How were the urban societies structured?

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4. Why did a government structure develop in urban societies?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Why was religion a major part of life in ancient urban societies?

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6. How did the architecture reflect the development of an urban society?  
Why were natural resources important in the architecture?

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7. Why were natural resources important to trade and the economy?

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**Instructions:** Write a one paragraph response to the question below.

8. How did the climate and surrounding ecosystems affect the economy of the urban society you studied (Copán, Tenochtitlán, or Machu Picchu)? (10 points)

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