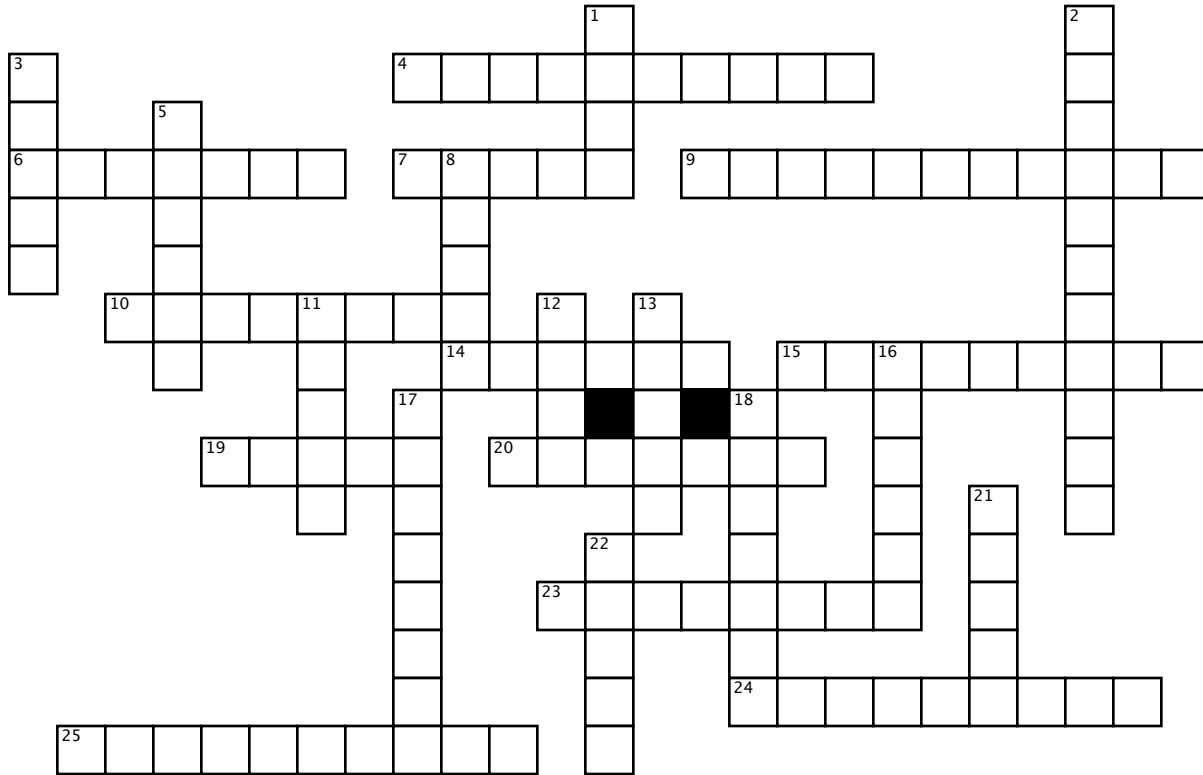


# Ancient Americans: South America and Mesoamerica

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Background information for GLE 41 in 5th Grade Social Studies.



## Across

4. The site of a major ceremonial complex for the culture in #2
6. The peninsula where the people in #3 lived (no accent marks).
7. The people in clue #3 built another ceremonial center at this site
9. A city-state in the Valley of Mexico
10. The people in clue #3 built yet another ceremonial center at this site
14. The first known city builders in South America; they lived in what is today Peru; they built cities around 1000 B.C.; their culture lasted around 500 years (do not add the accent mark in your answer)
15. Too much of this in the population and not enough in the soil led to the decline of the Mayans
19. Their culture began on the northern coast of Peru around 1 A.D.; they had no written language but did build cities and irrigation canals; like the Mesopotamians they built mud-brick buildings; they built pyramids to bury their kings like the Egyptians; their pyramids include the 525' tall Pyramid of the Sun and the Pyramid of the Moon; they had advanced crafts and metalworking; they practiced human sacrifice
20. They mummified their dead and made art that could only be fully seen from the air
23. The development of this technology allowed better timing of planting and had important religious significance; the people in #3 computed this through 2012 A.D.
24. This star-gazing superstition guided the Mayans in deciding which rival city-states to attack
25. He built the Copán Acropolis, one of the last major accomplishments of the Mayans; he married a princess from Palenque

## Down

1. This crop was cultivated in Mesoamerica around 2700 B.C.
2. Built by the Mayans, it survived the collapse of their civilization probably because of its ties with the Toltecs; it's temple was aligned with the sun at the equinoxes
3. A letter in a hieroglyphic alphabet
5. The people in #2 worshipped this predator
8. The first known city builders in the western hemisphere; they built cities in Central America around 1200 B.C.; huge stone heads made by this culture remain today.
11. They lived on the southern coast of Peru; they made huge earthworks artworks that can only be fully seen from the air
12. This Central American culture began around 1 A.D.; their classical period lasted from 300 to 900 A.D.; they developed astronomy, a calendar, and hieroglyphic writing; they built step-pyramids and terraced cities laid out in neat grids; they practiced human sacrifice
13. The people in clue #3 built a ceremonial center at this site
16. The material used to make the objects in #17; the people in #2 were given their name from the word for "Dwellers in the land of" this material
17. The crop mentioned in #10 was descended from this grassy plant
18. After the collapse of the ceremonial center in #11; this site became the center of that civilization until it, and the civilization, collapsed around 400 B.C.
21. Known as the "Sun Shield," this king ruled the city-state of Palenque for 68 years and built a palace, pyramid, and temple; he died in 683 A.D.
22. Courtyards were built for games involving these objects; it is probable that either the winners or losers of games played with these became human sacrifices; trees needed to produce this were common to Mesoamerica