

Essential Questions:

1. What makes a civilization great?
2. Must great civilizations fail?

Guiding Question:

1. What contributes to the rise and fall of civilizations?

By the end of this lesson, you will have reviewed your concept of civilization, apply it to new cultures (Maya, Aztec, Ghana, Mali, and Songhai), and analyze why civilizations rise and fall.

Part 1: Rise and Fall. Use the links to read the associated document(s) and answer what cause the rise of the empire and what contributed to its decline.

<i>Empire</i>	<i>Document</i>	<i>What contributed to the rise of the empire?</i>	<i>What contributed to decline of the empire?</i>
Aztec	The Aztec Empire AND Fall of Aztec Empire		
Maya	History: Chichen Itza		
Ghana			
Mali	Newsflash: Ghana, Mali and Songhai Empires AND Ghana, Mali, and Songhai		
Songhai			

Part 2: Extending. Use your answers from Part 1 to help you develop questions to further investigate these civilizations.

1. What questions do the readings from Part 1 create for you as a learner?

2. What information do you need to know?

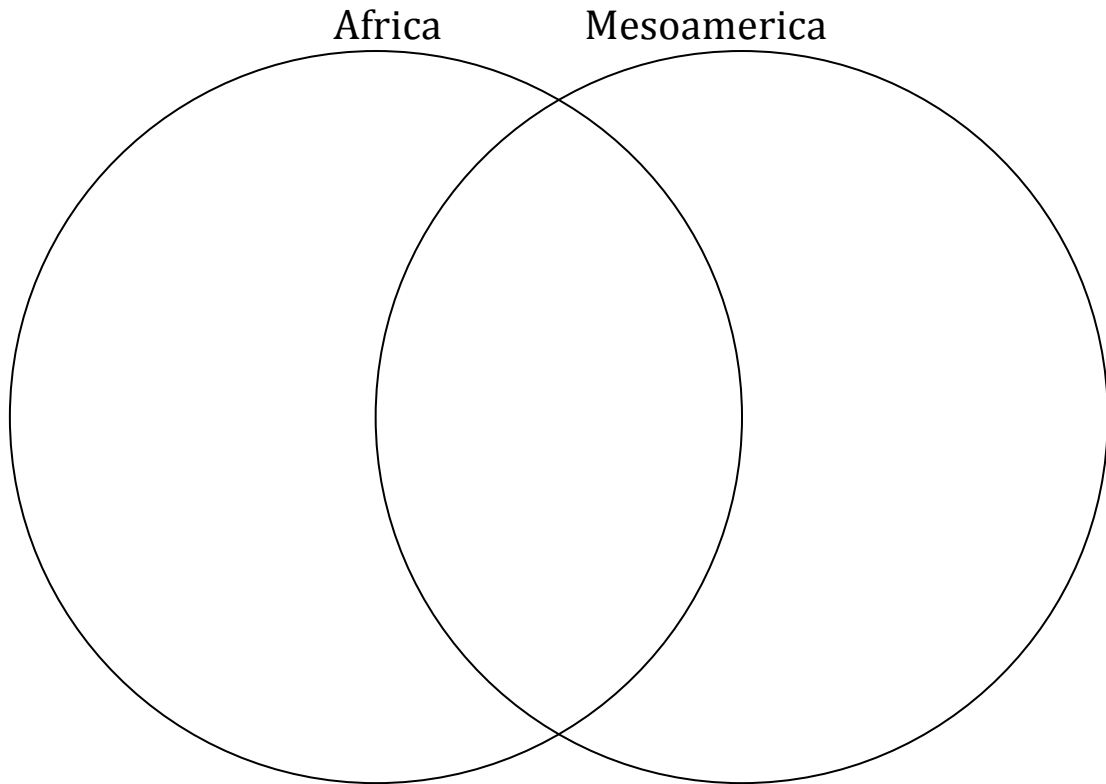
Part 3: Meaning & Purpose. Use the paragraphs 24-28 from the excerpt [Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali](#), to answer the following:

1. Using textual evidence, determine if Sundiata was a great leader.

2. Use textual evidence to determine the author's purpose.

Part 4: Wrapping It Up.

1) Review what you have learned about the civilizations in this activity. Use textual evidence to analyze similarities and differences of Ghana, Mali, Songhai, Maya, and Aztec Empires (consider culture, religion, livelihood, resources, etc.).



2) Read the article [Understanding Collapse](#). Use contextual evidence to determine what, if anything could have been done to prevent the collapse of each empire.

Empire	What, if anything, could have been done to prevent the collapse?
Aztec	
Maya	
Ghana	
Mali	
Songhai	

3) Based on your study of empires, what advice would you give to modern empires to avoid collapse? (Use the back of this page).