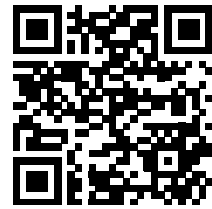


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Legends of Ancient America



The myths of early American civilizations are not just _____; they are a deep reflection of cultures, beliefs, and the understanding of the world by ancient peoples. Among these _____, the Maya, Aztec, and Inca stand out for their rich mythological _____. The Maya, for example, believed in a complex universe with gods like the _____ serpent, Quetzalcoatl, who represented creation and knowledge. The Aztecs had a powerful god, _____, who was associated with the sun and war. They believed that to ensure the sun would rise each day, they had to offer _____ sacrifices.

The Inca civilization, with its capital in Cusco, worshipped the sun god, _____, and believed their emperor was a direct descendant of the sun. This connection to the divine justified the emperor's _____ and the expansion of the Inca Empire. These civilizations also had myths explaining the creation of the _____, often involving battles between gods, the formation of the earth, and the creation of _____. The Maya, for instance, believed that the gods created humans from _____ after two failed attempts with mud and wood. These myths were not only religious texts but also served as a _____ for moral conduct and societal norms. They explained natural phenomena, the origin of the _____, and the reasons behind eclipses and earthquakes. The stories were passed down through generations, often orally or through intricate _____ and carvings. Today, these myths help archaeologists and historians understand the values, practices, and daily _____ of these ancient civilizations. They remind us of the rich cultural heritage that existed long before the arrival of Europeans and the lasting _____ these stories have on the identity and history of the American continent.

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| rule | life | seasons | world | impact | guide | mankind | human | traditions |
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