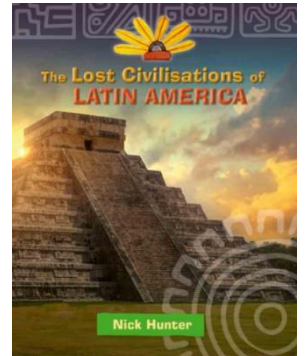Suggested reading/writing activities for children in Y5 based around the book 'The Lost Civilisations of Latin America' Rising Stars Supernova Red+

This book takes children back in time to explore the lost civilisations of Latin America. It is written from a persuasive perspective and enables children to learn about different people and cultures in what we now know as Mexico and Central and South America. It explores the Maya, who built imposing temples and pyramids, and the Inca, who crafted beautiful solid-gold objects and founded the incredible city of Machu Picchu high in the Andes mountains. This book guide delves into the sports they played, the food they ate and the buildings and artwork they created.

Before Reading:

Introduce children to the idea of an ancient civilisation and how non-fiction or information texts will help them to explore this in more detail.

- Ask: Look at the front cover. What does it mean to be lost? Discuss children's responses. Have you heard of the term 'civilisation'? Explain to children that it refers to the society, culture and way of life of an area. This book will help them to explore the term further as it includes detailed descriptions of different civilisations in Latin America.
- Ask: What kinds of features would you expect to find in a non-fiction book? Elicit aspects that are key features, e.g. a contents page, a glossary, index, headings, sub-headings, captions, labels, diagrams, etc.
- Read the back-cover blurb together to find out more about the book before you start reading. What does 'ancestors' mean? Explain to children that these are typically distant relatives from the past.

Following on from the reading this book, here are your writing activities for the week:

- Monday – read pages 2-15 and complete the vocabulary sheet below.
- Tuesday – read pages 16-29 and complete the comprehension task below.
- Wednesday – read pages 30-35 and complete the Maya mask activity in the Creative Fun and Enrichment section of our timetable. Watch the Youtube video and follow the steps.
- Thursday – read pages 46-61 and create a postcard about your visit to a lost civilisation of Latin America. Decorate the front with your own drawings of life in the past and descriptions of your journey on the back.
- Friday – read over the Glossary and the meanings of key words within the book and complete the quiz at the end.

Thank you for all your hard work. Please don't forget to send any completed work to our year group email: year5@oliprimaryschool.co.uk

Mrs Coulson and Miss Topping.

Vocabulary in context

'Furnished with fine fabrics and jaguar skins, the palace is where the ruler plans military campaigns, meets important visitors from other city-states and entertains guests with lavish feasts.' (page 20)

1 Give one synonym for the word 'lavish'.

_____

2 Give one antonym for the word 'lavish'.

_____

3 'This is the time to arrive and experience this vibrant city to the full.' (page 26)

The word 'vibrant' suggests that the city was ...

Tick one.

empty ☐   lonely ☐

lively ☐   happy ☐

4 'The Aztecs also create stunning art with materials such as gold and turquoise.' (page 39)

The word 'stunning' is closest in meaning to ...

Tick one.

colourful ☐   bold ☐

impressive ☐   exciting ☐

5 Look at the paragraph beginning: 'If you are lucky enough to receive a gift from a wealthy Inca noble ...' (page 48)

Find and copy one word that is closest in meaning to 'of very high quality'.

_____

Retrieving and recording information

Remember to look for two different points.

1 **Look at page 21. What type of people lived in the Mayan cities?**

   Give **two** types of people.

   a _____

   b _____

2 **a Look at page 23. What is different about rich and poor clothes?**

   Rich clothes _____

   Poor clothes _____

   b Why did rich people wear these clothes?

   _____

   _____

3 **Look at page 25. What advice would you give to a tourist visiting the Mayan city?**

   Give **two** pieces of advice.

   a _____

   b _____

4 **Look at page 25. Why might the Mayan city-states be abandoned?**

   Give **two** possible reasons.

   a _____

   b _____

Challenge: Create three retrieval questions for someone in your class to answer. Did they answer correctly?

Postcard template