



Teacher's Guide

Chichen Itza, the Great Wall of China, & Christ the Redeemer Statue **14 Wonders of Our World Series**

Grade Levels:

6-12

Subject Areas:

Social Studies

World History

World Geography & Cultures

Synopsis:

Surveys the history and significance of these three Wonders of the World. Reviews details of Mayan civilization embodied in the ruins of Chichen Itza including the ritual of the ball game, the development of the Mayan calendar and the Mayan practice of human sacrifice. Explains that the first emperor of China devised the construction of the Great Wall as a project to unite the small kingdoms of China. Provides details of the Wall's design and construction, including the ruthless treatment of Chinese workers and the legend of Meng Qiang Mu. Films the wall from several locations while reviewing China's military history when the wall provided a defense against invading armies. As a complete contrast to the other Wonders of the World, visits the statue of Christ the Redeemer noting that it is the only wonder to symbolize compassion and justice in contrast to the worldly society that surrounds it.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Appreciate the cultural significance of these Wonders of the World.
- Contrast Mayan practices of human sacrifice with the accomplishments of Mayan astronomers and mathematicians.
- Describe the treatment of laborers who constructed the Great Wall of China.
- Contrast the significance of the Statue of Christ the Redeemer with that of other World Wonders.

Vocabulary:

castes, myriad, balustrade, deems, traverse, portal, calligraphy, genesis, garrisoned, servitude, toil, self-indulgent, glitterati, colossus, funicular

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

What do you know about Mayan civilization? Where did the Mayans live? What were their accomplishments? Can you describe their religious practices?

Why is the Great Wall of China so world-renowned? What does it represent to people who are not Chinese? What was the purpose of the Great Wall of China?

What Brazilian landmark is known throughout Brazil or for that matter throughout the world?

Can you describe life in Rio de Janeiro? When do many tourists like to visit Rio de Janeiro?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Of these three Wonders of the World, which one would you most like to visit? What draws you to this site?

What was the significance of the Mayans ball game? Was it merely a sport or something else? Describe what it meant to the players. What other accomplishments are the Maya known for?

Do you think the Great Wall of China has outlived its usefulness? Explain the reasons for your opinion.

What is the general response of North Americans who visit the Great Wall?

If you were to visit Rio de Janeiro, would you visit the Statue of Christ the Redeemer? Why or why not?

Further Activities:

Further investigate the craftsmanship and engineering involved in building the Statue of Christ the Redeemer.

Find a diagram or map that shows the relative location of sites at Chichen Itza described in this program. Explain how the map provides insight into daily life at Chichen Itza.

See if you can find other examples of legends associated with the construction of the Great Wall of China.

Read accounts of the influence of the Statue of Christ the Redeemer on the citizens of Rio de Janeiro.

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