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— INTRODUCTION —

As It Was! is an interdisciplinary approach to various cultures in history. It takes broad-based concepts and applies them to a particular culture, people or period of time. Students are provided with opportunities to investigate aspects of past cultures through the following disciplines:

- English
- Social Studies
- Science
- Maths
- Art

This book is divided into three units:

ISSUES

Activities are designed to provide students with opportunities to understand and analyse major historical topics.

PEOPLE

Activities are designed to provide students with opportunities to understand and analyse major historical individuals.

PLACES

Activities are designed to provide students with opportunities to understand and analyse major historical locations.

Each unit is divided into three sections:

GET THE IDEA!

This page introduces and defines the concept. It includes an activity which teaches the concept.

GET THE FACTS!

These pages provide multi-curricular activities based on the concept. Students express their grasp of concepts and content through the provided integrated activities.

MAKE THE CONNECTION!

Each “Make the Connection” page contains an open-ended activity which enables students to synthesise and evaluate the relationship between the concept and the content.

Mayas, Incas and Aztecs

This book contains activities related to issues, people and places specific to each of the three cultures featured in this book: the Maya, the Incas and the Aztecs.

Mayas

The Mayan civilisation was centred in and around the Yucatán Peninsula in what is now Mexico. The Mayan culture developed as early as 2600 BC and reached its zenith around AD 250.

Incas

The Incan civilisation was centred in the Andes Mountains in what is now Peru. The civilisation extended from the Isthmus of Panama to the Amazon Basin southwest to modern-day Chile. The Incas' control of this area began in the twelfth century AD and ended with the Spanish conquest in the seventeenth century.

Aztecs

The Aztec civilisation centred around Lake Texcoco in the central valley of Mexico in what is now Mexico City. In the early 1300s AD, their civilisation became formalised; it ended with the Aztecs' defeat by the Spaniards in the sixteenth century.

Objectives

Students will...

- participate in experiences to develop concepts;
- use research skills to “Get the Facts!” related to the learned concept;
- work with information integrating the disciplines of English, Social Studies, Science, Maths and Art/Music to explore the concept;
- connect the concept and the content;
- use factual information incorporating higher-order thinking skills (analysing, creating, evaluating); and
- work creatively with information integrating content areas.

Audience

Years five to nine

- Students of social studies
- Writers
- Scientists
- Mathematicians
- Artists
- Thinkers
- Individuals
- Small groups
- Whole class
- Teams

