

# THE FIRST AMERICANS



There are now twenty-three countries and twenty-three nationalities in North, Central, and South America. In the past, there were different groups of people in America. The Inca people lived in a large area of South America. The Maya people lived in Central America. And people in Mexico were part of the Aztec Empire. In North America, the Apache, the Navajo, the Sioux, and other Native American groups lived in different areas.

The Inca Empire was famous for its roads. There were roads on the west coast of South America, from the north to the south. The Maya people were famous for their writing and math systems. In Mayan math, a dot was "one" and a bar was "five." The capital city of the Aztecs was Tenochtitlan. Mexico City is in the same place. The words *chocolate* and *tomato* were Aztec words.

Famous rulers in South America were Tupac Amaru, an Inca ruler, and Moctezuma, an Aztec ruler. One famous Apache was Geronimo, but he wasn't a ruler. Geronimo was born on June 16th, 1829. When he was a young man, there was a war between the US government and Native Americans. Geronimo was a war hero. He died in 1909.

Geronimo: Apache hero  
June 16th, 1829–February 17th, 1909



## Reading

1 Work in pairs. Do you think these sentences are true (T) or false (F)?

1 The Inca Empire was in North America.	T   F
2 The Maya people were from Central America.	T   F
3 The Aztecs were from Peru.	T   F
4 The Apache people were from South America.	T   F

4 Can you remember? Complete the sentences. Then check your answers in the article.

- 1 There are \_\_\_\_\_ countries in North, Central, and South America.
- 2 The Inca roads were on the \_\_\_\_\_ coast of South America.
- 3 The Mayan "one" was a \_\_\_\_\_.