JOURNEY THROUGH ANCIENT MESOAMERICA

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Advanced High School Spanish

I. INTRODUCTION
On the first day of class, a summary will be given of several of the major Mesoamerican cultures concentrating on the Olmec, Nayarit, Colima, Jalisco, Aztec, and Maya as well as life in Tenochtitlán. Slides will be used to illustrate various aspects of the cultures. A complete bibliography will be given to each student, along with a list of the materials available to them through the school's resource center or library.

II. PREPARATION
Students will be asked to choose a particular culture, divide into groups which share an interest, and imagine they are reporters traveling back in time to live in the culture. Research is to focus on the daily life, clothing, and customs of their chosen culture. Students will:

- give presentations in class about their discoveries in the form of a news report. If possible, they are to make costumes, take photographs, and record the names of people they encountered while "living" with these people.
- lead the class through the ancient American galleries at the Art Institute to study the artistic contributions of the ancient Americans.

III. ACTIVITIES
Students will make a variety of presentations. During each individual presentation, the other students should be encouraged to ask questions and take notes. All discussions and presentations should be in Spanish. Presentations may include such activities as:

*Role playing* a modern reporter journeying back to the past will interview an ancient Mesoamerican;
*Art projects* which include the fabrication of costumes and jewelry which reflect styles worn in ancient Mesoamerica;
*Research, reading, discussing, recording, and writing* about the cultures.

IV. EVALUATION
Were the students able to teach each other with the teacher functioning only as a reference source? Were students able to conduct research and come up with reasonable hypotheses? Did students gain a knowledge, as in-depth as possible, of each culture and did they have a successful "co-teaching" experience?

V. FOLLOW-UP
Individual presentations will be discussed; students will be given a brief quiz to test what they learned from the presentations and the tour at the Art Institute. Students will make a class presentation to the history, geography, and sociology classes.