

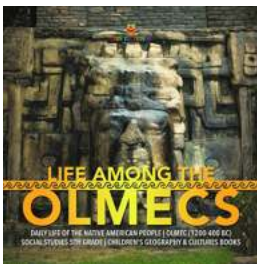
# Life Among The Olmecs: Daily Life Of The Native American People Olmec 1200-400

The Olmec civilization, considered one of the earliest and most influential cultures in Mesoamerica, thrived from approximately 1200 to 400 BCE. The Olmec people, known for their distinctive art and architecture, left behind a rich archaeological record that provides us with valuable insights into their daily lives.

## The Olmec Society

The Olmec society was hierarchical, with a ruling elite holding power over commoners. The ruling elite consisted of priests, rulers, and other high-ranking officials who governed the Olmec city-states. They lived luxurious lives, adorned with extravagant jewelry and headdresses that symbolized their authority.

Below the ruling elite were the commoners who primarily worked in farming and agriculture. They grew various crops such as maize, beans, squash, and chili peppers. Agriculture was the backbone of the Olmec economy, and it allowed them to sustain large populations.



**Life Among the Olmecs | Daily Life of the Native American People | Olmec (1200-400 BC) | Social Studies 5th Grade | Children's Geography & Cultures Books** by Baby Professor (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 68365 KB

Print length : 76 pages



## **Family Life**

The Olmec people placed great importance on family and kinship ties. Extended families lived together in large houses made of perishable materials such as wood and thatch. These houses usually consisted of several interconnected rooms, accommodating multiple generations of a family.

Women played a significant role in Olmec society. They were responsible for household tasks, such as cooking, weaving, and taking care of the children. Men, on the other hand, engaged in agricultural work and were often involved in trade and commerce.

## **Art and Religion**

The Olmec civilization is renowned for its impressive art and religious practices. They created colossal stone heads, intricately carved jade ornaments, and pottery figurines that depicted human and animal forms.

Religion played a central role in Olmec society. They worshipped deities associated with fertility, rain, and agriculture. Ritual ceremonies, which included bloodletting and human sacrifices, were conducted to appease the gods and maintain harmony in the world.

## **Trade and Economy**

The Olmec people engaged in extensive trade networks, exchanging goods such as jade, obsidian, and marine shells. These trade routes extended across Mesoamerica, allowing the Olmecs to obtain exotic materials from distant regions.

They also developed complex systems for agriculture, including advanced irrigation techniques and terrace farming. This allowed them to maximize the

productivity of their crops and support their expanding populations.

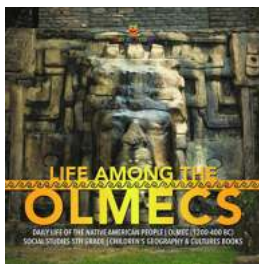
## Legacy and Decline

The Olmec civilization left an enduring impact on the subsequent cultures of Mesoamerica. Many aspects of Olmec art, religion, and societal organization became influential to later civilizations, such as the Maya and the Aztecs.

However, around 400 BCE, the Olmec civilization began to decline. The reasons for their decline are still debated among archaeologists, but factors such as environmental changes, overexploitation of resources, and internal conflicts likely played a role.

## In

Life among the Olmecs was intricate and vibrant, with a social structure that emphasized family ties and a strong reliance on agriculture. Their art and religious practices showcased the creativity and beliefs of this ancient civilization. While the Olmecs eventually disappeared, their legacy lives on in the subsequent cultures that were influenced by their accomplishments.



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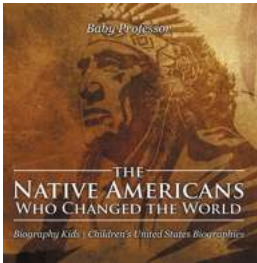
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The Olmecs walked the Earth a long time ago but their marks are still felt these days. In fact, some of the traditions you know may have originated from the Olmecs. Read about the Olmec civilization, particularly their art and religion, daily life and discoveries. Get a copy and encourage your fifth grader to read beginning today.



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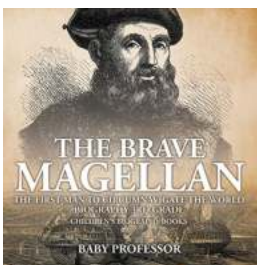
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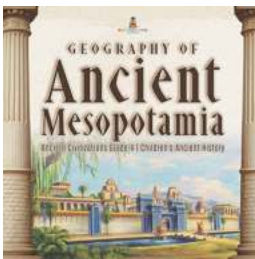
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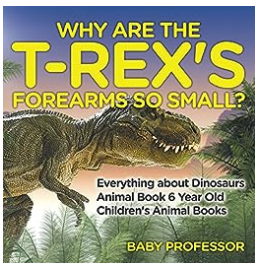
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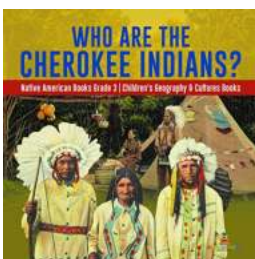
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