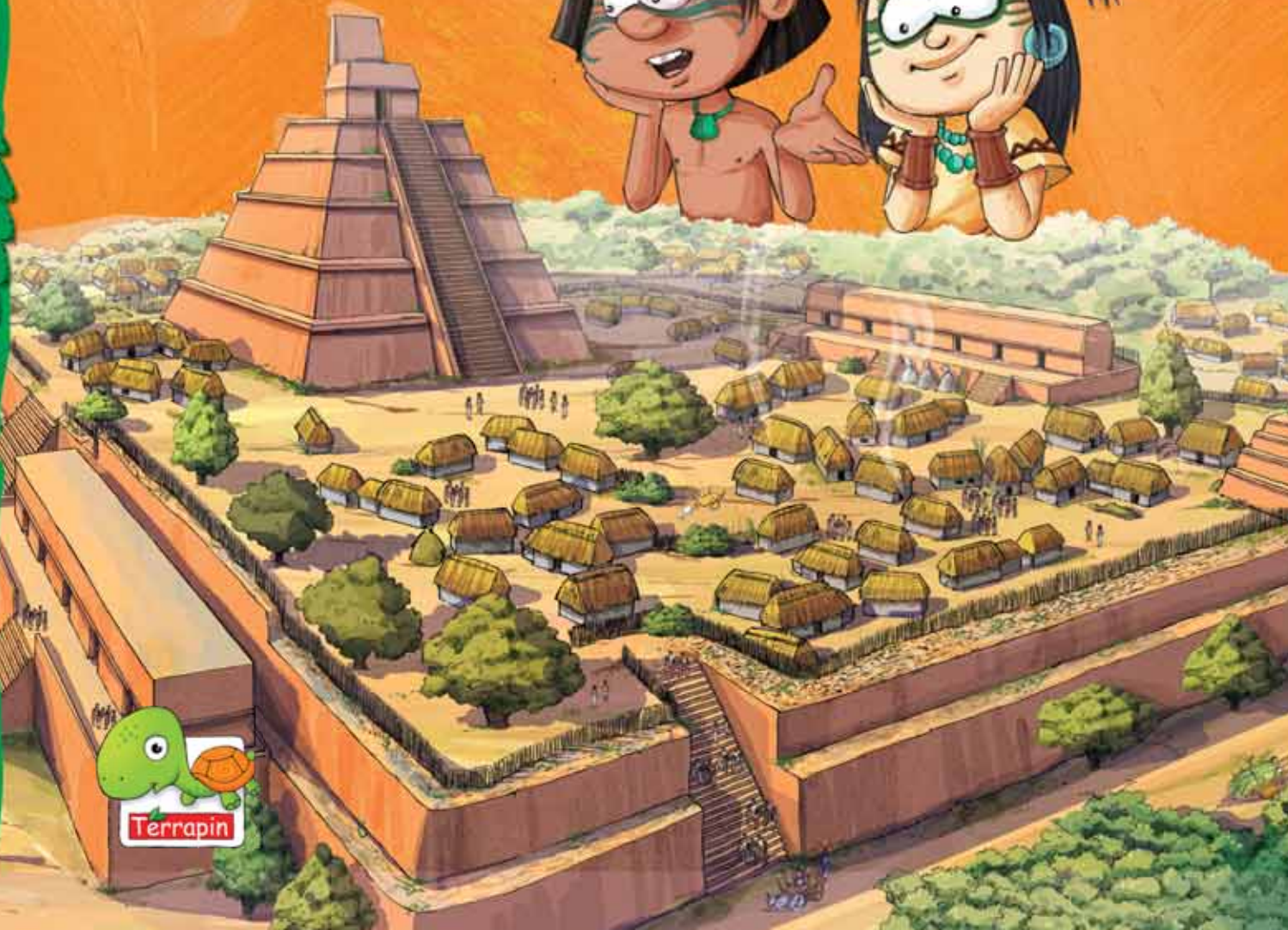


SMART GREEN CIVILIZATIONS

ANCIENT AMERICA

GREEN LESSONS FROM THE PAST



A note from Dr R K Pachauri

Human civilization in its race towards progress has at times ignored its adverse effects on nature. With every passing century, man has intensified his quest for a tomorrow better than today, and issues like environment-friendly living, usage of clean energy and preventing the harmful effects of chemicals on nature are becoming increasingly important. Contrary to popular belief, these can be tackled without compromising on our comforts. All we need to do is turn a few pages of history and relearn lessons that civilizations from various parts of the world have left behind.

This series provides a unique and interesting perspective of history from the eyes of an environmentalist. It highlights the environmental wisdom of ancient people. These books bring alive ancient civilizations and their simple, earth-friendly lifestyles—building bright and airy houses from mud bricks, using the sun's energy to heat homes, utilizing plants to make natural dyes, applying manure to grow crops, and many more such techniques.

Exploring the fascinating civilizations of the ancient world and bringing forth little known 'green lessons' from the past, I hope these books will ensure that young readers put to use the knowledge of yesteryears to lay the foundation for a prosperous future.



R K Pachauri

Director-General, TERI

Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change