

Geography



Early Civilizations in North America

Migration from Asia across Bering Strait

Olmeecs

- “Rubber People”
- “Mother” Civilization of Mesoamerica
- Traders
- Played pok-a-tok games
- Temples/Pyramids
- “Colossal Heads”



Maya, Aztec, & Inca

Maya

- Located primarily on Yucatan Peninsula
- Economy = Agriculture
- Govt. = City-states ruled by Kings
- Premier cities = Chichén Itzá, Tikal
- Strict social classes
 - Priests, Nobles, Warriors – Upper class
- Polytheistic Religion
 - Human Sacrifices
 - Pyramid temples
- Achievements
 - Hieroglyphics
 - 365-day Calendar
 - Number system
 - Astronomy



Pyramid at Chichén Itzá

Inca

- Developed in Andes Mountains
- Economy = Agriculture
 - High-Altitude Farming; Terrace Farming
- Government = Emperor
 - Socialized Economy; Govt. controlled
- Premier Cities = Cuzco; Machu Picchu
- Religion = Polytheistic
 - Chief god – Sun god
- Achievements
 - Quipus (Record-keeping); Engineering;
 - Vast Road network



Alpaca looking over Machu Picchu



Chinampas

Spanish invade
Aztecs and Inca

Aztec

- Located in Central Mexico
- Economy = Agriculture
 - Chinampas – floating gardens
- Government = Empire
 - Trade & Tribute from conquered peoples
- Premier City = Tenochtitlan
 - Located on Lake Texcoco
- Religion = Polytheistic
 - Chief god – Sun god
 - Rituals based on warfare
- Achievements
 - Causeways, Aqueducts, Dams, Canals, Pyramids