SSWH1 Analyze the origins, structures, and interactions of societies in the ancient world from 3500 BCE/BC to 500 BCE/BC.

e. Explain the rise of the Olmecs.

SSWH8 Describe the diverse characteristics of societies in Central and South America.

a. Explain the rise and fall of the Mayan, Aztec, and Inca Empires.

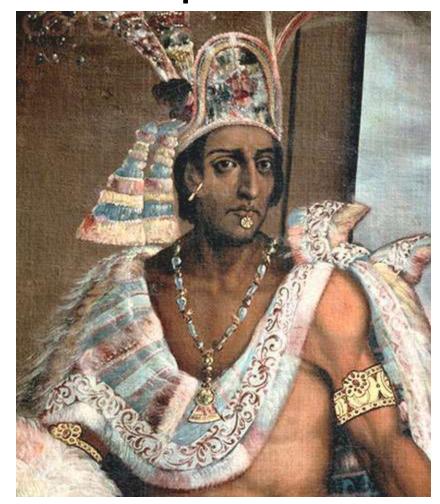
b. Compare and contrast the Mayan, Aztec, and Incan societies, include: religion, culture, economics, politics, and technology.



EQ

 What were contributions of the Olmec and Mayan?

a. Explain the rise and fall of the Olmec, Mayan, Aztec, and Inca empires.



Olmec (1200-400 BC)

- One of the earliest civilization in the Americas
- Settled along rivers with good soil for agriculture
- Farming led to the development of towns
- The Empire ended due to changes in the soil which led to under production of crops



Olmec

 Known for their creation of colossal stone heads of their rulers



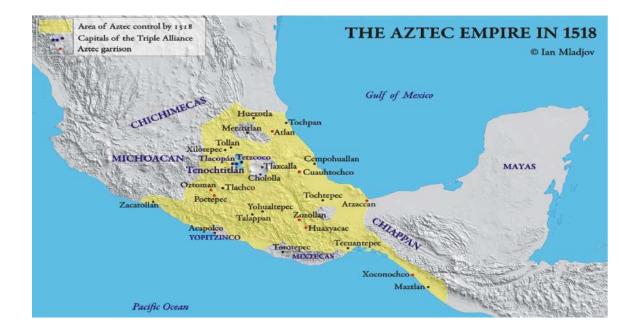
Mayan (200B.C-900 A.D.)



- The Mayan were influenced by the Olmec
- They built independent cities linked by trade and military alliances
- War between the citystates, disruption of trade, and over farming may have caused the down fall of the Mayan

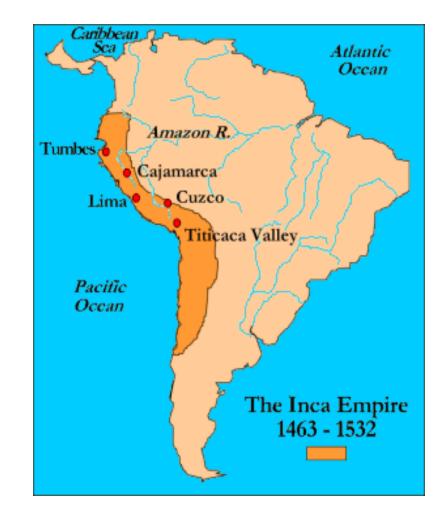
Aztec Empire (1400-1521 A.D.)

- Came as nomads and settled in central Mexico near lakes with fertile soil
- Formed alliances, built cities: The Capital had a population of 200-400,000 people
- The arrival of Cortes (Spanish) spelled the end of the Aztec Empire)

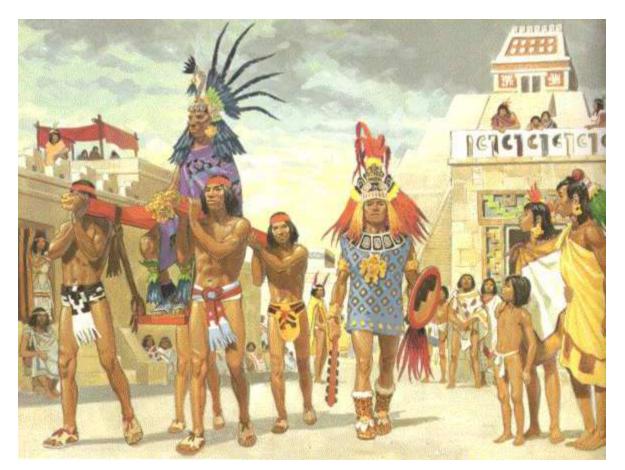


Inca (1460-1532)

- Settled in a fertile valley, and then proceed to conquer the western coast of South America
- Established empire through military and diplomatic means
- During an Incan civil war, Pizarro (Spanish) was able to defeat the splintered empire



b. Compare the culture of the Americas; include government, economy, religion, and the arts of the Mayans, Aztecs, and Incas.



	Government	Economy	Religion	Arts
MAYAN				
AZTEC				
INCA				

Government

Mayans	Independent city-states ruled by a king/priest. Power gained through hereditary means.
Aztecs	Had a central emperor with regional rulers who paid tribute to the emperor.
Incas	Led by a king with the empire divided into units. All towns were connected to the capital by roads. Citizens expected to work a certain number of days for the state

Economy

Mayans	Based on agriculture and trade (salt, feathers, jade)
Aztecs	Based on agriculture and trade. Goods paid as tributes from conquered peoples.
Incas	Based on trade and self-sufficient farming

Religion

Mayans	Central to Mayan life. Worshiped multiple gods. Some human sacrifice- mainly worshiped through prayer and assorted offerings.
Aztecs	Central to Aztec life. Worshiped multiple gods. Large scale human sacrifice to the Sun God.
Incas	Ancestor worship with human sacrifice on special occasions

Arts

Mayans	Developed a religious calendar based on astronomy and an advanced writing system. Carved jade, built pyramids.
Aztecs	Developed a calendar similar to the Mayans. Built pyramids. Paintings and pottery were usually religious or war based in theme.
Incas	Worked metal, pottery and cloth

http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/world-heritage/machu-picchu/

Maccu Picchu

Machu Picchu appears to lie at the center of a network of related sites and trails—and many landmarks both man-made and mountainous appear to align with astronomical events like the solstice sunset. The Inca had no written language, so they left no record of why they built the site or how they used it before it was abandoned in the early 16th century.





