

**Civilizations of the Americas: Olmec, Maya, Aztec, Inca**

**I. Civilizations of America**

A. While \_\_\_\_\_ civilizations were developing in the Mediterranean & Asia...advanced societies were developing in \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_

1. During the \_\_\_\_\_, prehistoric nomads migrated across the \_\_\_\_\_ between Asia & America
2. During the Neolithic Revolution, these nomads settled into \_\_\_\_\_ villages; Some of which became advanced civilizations

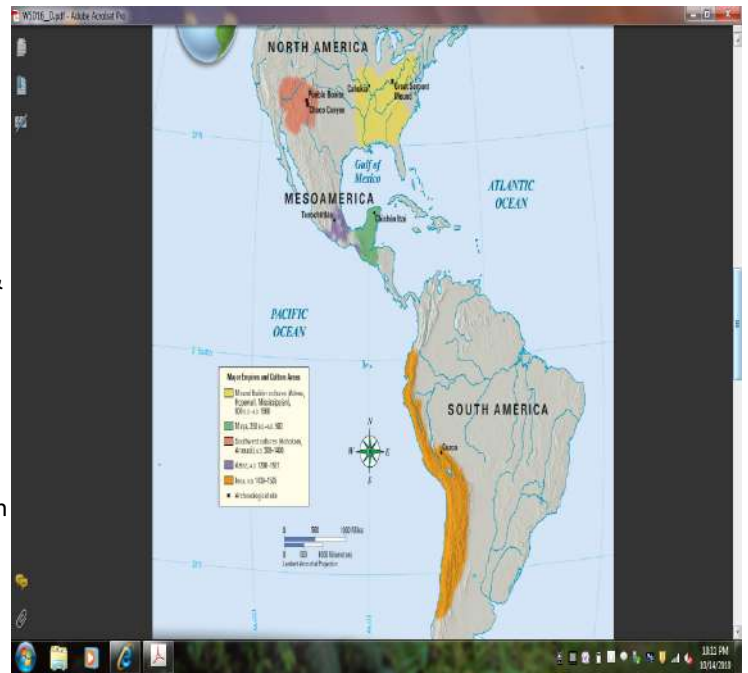
B. The first American civilization were people known as the \_\_\_\_\_ in an area known as \_\_\_\_\_

1. The Olmecs are often called the “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” because they influenced other Mesoamerican societies
2. The Olmecs developed a strong \_\_\_\_\_ network in Mesoamerica that brought them great \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The Olmecs used their wealth to build large stone \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ to honor their leaders & gods
  - b. Olmec trade allowed them to \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ to other Mesoamericans
3. For \_\_\_\_\_ reasons, the Olmec civilization \_\_\_\_\_ by 400 B.C. but their cities & symbols influenced later cultures, especially the \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Mayan, Aztec, and Incan Empires**

**A. Mayans**

1. Rise of the Empire: While the Olmecs were in decline around 400 B.C., the \_\_\_\_\_ were evolving & borrowed many Olmec ideas
2. Government: Mayans were \_\_\_\_\_ into individual \_\_\_\_\_ ruled by king-gods
3. Economy: The Mayan economy was based on \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ maize, beans
4. Society: (1) \_\_\_\_\_; (2) Nobles, priests, warriors; (3) Merchants & artisans; (4) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Religion: Mayans were polytheistic & offered their \_\_\_\_\_, food, & sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifices to please the gods
6. Technology: Mayans invented a \_\_\_\_\_ based on pictures called \_\_\_\_\_, an accurate 365-day \_\_\_\_\_, & advanced temples
7. Decline & Fall of the Empire: Around 800 A.D., the Mayans \_\_\_\_\_ declined perhaps due to warfare among Mayan city-states & over-\_\_\_\_\_



**B. Aztecs**

1. Rise of the Empire
  - a. After the decline of the Mayans, the \_\_\_\_\_ were developing in present-day \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Around 1200, Aztecs arrived in Mexico & built their city \_\_\_\_\_ in 1325
2. Government: The Aztecs formed a massive \_\_\_\_\_, controlled it through 38 \_\_\_\_\_, & received tribute from conquered peoples
3. Economy: They survived on \_\_\_\_\_ & farming; They built “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” (chinampas)
4. Society: (1) Kings, (2) Nobility, (3) Commoners, (4) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Religion: Aztecs worshipped many gods, especially the \_\_\_\_\_ & made thousands of human \_\_\_\_\_ each year
6. Technology: Like the Mayans, the Aztecs developed an accurate \_\_\_\_\_ & built advanced \_\_\_\_\_
7. Decline & Fall of the Empire
  - a. Around 1500 A.D., the Aztecs began to \_\_\_\_\_; A century of \_\_\_\_\_ rule over the provinces & millions of human sacrifices led to \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. But, the true demise of the Aztecs came when the \_\_\_\_\_ discovered America & conquered the Aztecs

C. Incas

1. Rise of the Empire:

- a. While the Aztecs ruled Mexico, the \_\_\_\_\_ began to dominate the area of the Andes Mountains of \_\_\_\_\_ America
- b. Many Incan cities like \_\_\_\_\_ & Cuzcu were built in the \_\_\_\_\_

2. Government:

- a. Like the Aztecs, the Incas built a vast \_\_\_\_\_ which included 80 provinces
- b. But, the Incas ruled with tolerance & \_\_\_\_\_ their empire with roads, \_\_\_\_\_, & a common language

3. Economy: The Incan gov't \_\_\_\_\_ the economy & required all citizens to \_\_\_\_\_ for the good of the empire

4. Society: (1) King, (2) Nobility, (3) Ayllu (\_\_\_\_\_)

5. Religion: The Inca were \_\_\_\_\_ & offered llamas & food (but not \_\_\_\_\_) to the gods

6. Technology: Inca innovations included \_\_\_\_\_, a means of record keeping involving \_\_\_\_\_ as well as an extensive system of \_\_\_\_\_ & suspension \_\_\_\_\_

7. Decline & Fall of the Empire: In the 1520s, a \_\_\_\_\_ divided & weakened the Incan Empire; Ten years later \_\_\_\_\_ conquistadors conquered the empire

**Review Activity: Place the number in the appropriate box(es) in the chart**

<b><u>Olmecs</u></b> (6 descriptions)	<b><u>Mayans</u></b> (7 descriptions)	<b><u>Aztecs</u></b> (7 descriptions)	<b><u>Incas</u></b> (7 descriptions)

**Descriptions of American Civilizations:**

1. Historians are not sure why they collapsed
2. Kings ruled over city-states, not a unified empire
3. Had a large empire with roads for sending messages
4. Had thriving trade
5. Government controlled trade and farming
6. Built religious temples
7. Worshipped many gods
8. Sun god was most important
9. Used human sacrifice and bloodletting as a part of religion
10. Warriors were in the noble class, followed by commoners, slaves were at the bottom of society
11. Emperor was at the top, but all people within the empire were taken care of
12. Had writing based on glyphs
13. Used quipu to keep records
14. Built chinampas for farming
15. Built large carved head statues

