

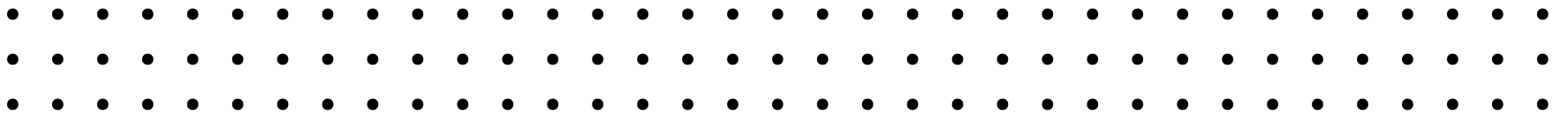






WORLD HISTORY

# The Americas





# The Earliest Americans:

Migrated from Asia over a land bridge called

## Beringia

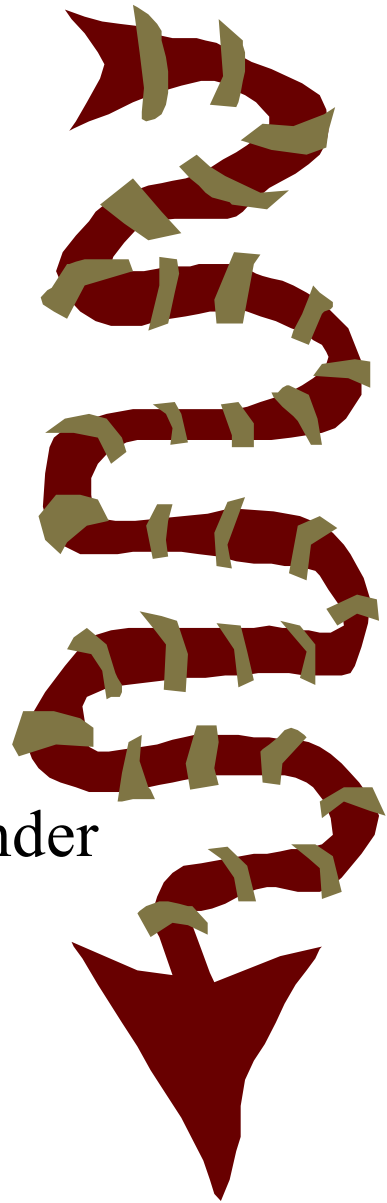
Beringia appeared at the end of the last ice age  
(approx. 10,000 BC)

The build up of glaciers had lowered sea levels and  
exposed land features that were normally under  
water.

People crossed between Asia and Alaska

Wild animals came as well

Another theory says that people traveled from the Middle East to  
the Americas by boat.







[Ice Age clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7B-1mLMpHw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7B-1mLMpHw)



**Ate:** squash, gourds, beans, avocados and chilies which grew naturally in the area



**BUTTERNUT**



**QUEENSLAND BLUE**



**SPAGHETTI SQUASH**



**GOLDEN NUGGET**



**KENT / JAP / KABOCHA**



**GEM SQUASH**

Major change in diet comes with the growing of maize = corn. (white, black, red, blue, yellow)



The story of developed civilizations in the Americas begins in MesoAmerica.

(area between modern day Mexico and Honduras)





# Olmec Peoples:



Called the “mother culture” of the Americas

Exist between 1200-400 BC

Lived along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico

Rains a lot = lots of floods

Gather salt and tar  
for trade









Loved to build: columns, altars, 44 ton sculpted heads





Worshipped the jaguar spirit:



God of the rain, fertility and maize

Left no written records (only pictures and sculpture)

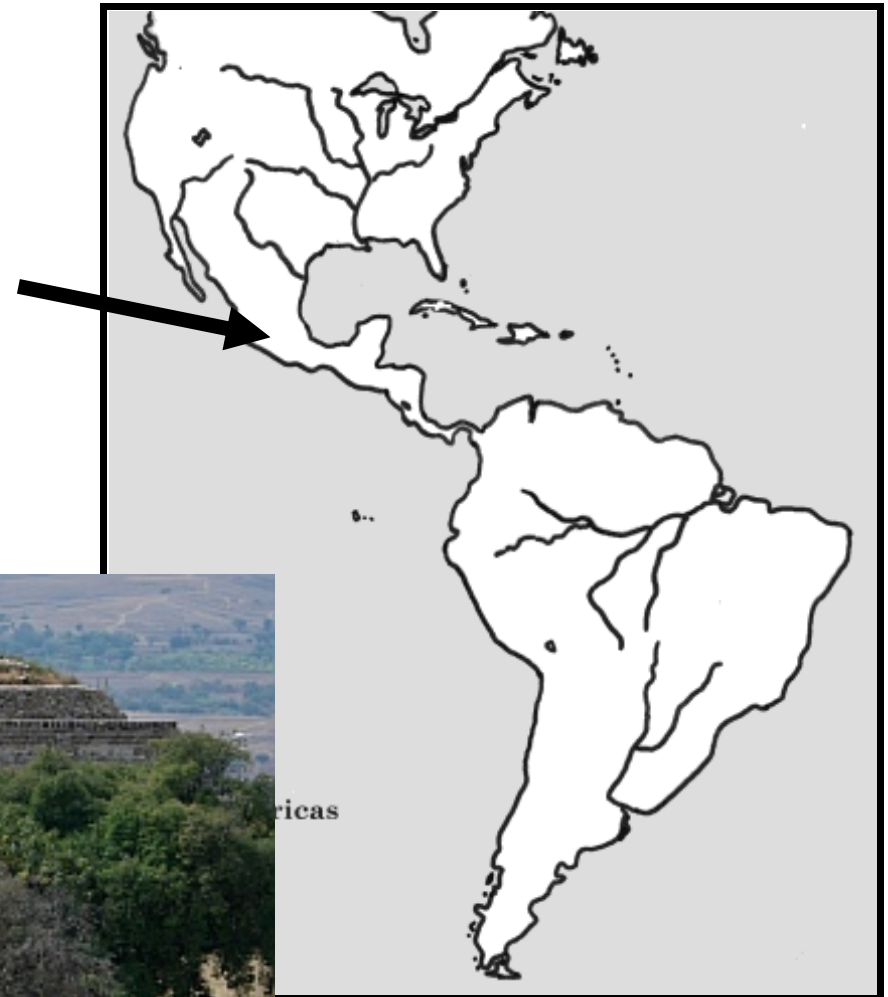


# Zapotec Peoples:

Settled in the Oaxaca Valley

Biggest city was named

Monte Alban



25,000 people

Plaza, star observatory, pyramids, temples, and palaces

Around 600 AD the people just disappear



The Americas



# Andean Civilizations:



Civilization and where	When they flourished	Aspects of Culture
<b><u>Chavin</u></b> Highland of Peru	900BC-200BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Religious images in stone carvings</u></li><li>• <u>Pyramids</u></li><li>• <u>Giant earth mounds</u></li></ul>
<b><u>Nazca</u></b> Southern Peru	200BC-600AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Irrigation systems with canals</li><li>• Pottery and textiles</li></ul>
<b><u>Moche</u></b> Northern Peru	100AD-700AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Irrigation</u></li><li>• <u>Gold and silver jewelry</u></li><li>• <u>Musical instruments</u></li></ul>

# Mayan Peoples:

Perhaps the most advanced in the Americas  
Skilled architects and engineers



Build many tall temples,  
pictograph writing  
system: “glyphs”

Polytheistic

Mayan priests would  
offer human sacrifice to  
the gods hoping for rain.

Considered the stars and planets to be Gods  
Extreme effort to study astronomy







End of the world: December 23, 2012







*10*

*11*

*12*

*13*

*14*



*15*

*16*

*17*

*18*

*19*



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Mayan Math time

# Aztec Peoples:

Wandering warriors

Settled in Central Mexico

Farmed on raised fields called—chinampas

Mud from bottom of lakes

Create islands that become fields







Tenochtitlan





Most prestigious members of society were warriors

Believed that the sun god was in a constant struggle against the dark  
“fed” the sun god with human sacrifices to keep it strong.





Directions:

1. Use the documents provided to fill in information about the Noble Class, Middle Class (Merchants and Artisans) and the Lower Class (Commoners)

2. Add arrows to show how you could move up and down the social class pyramid. Label them with the action/behavior that allowed for that movement.



**King or High Priest (ahaw)**

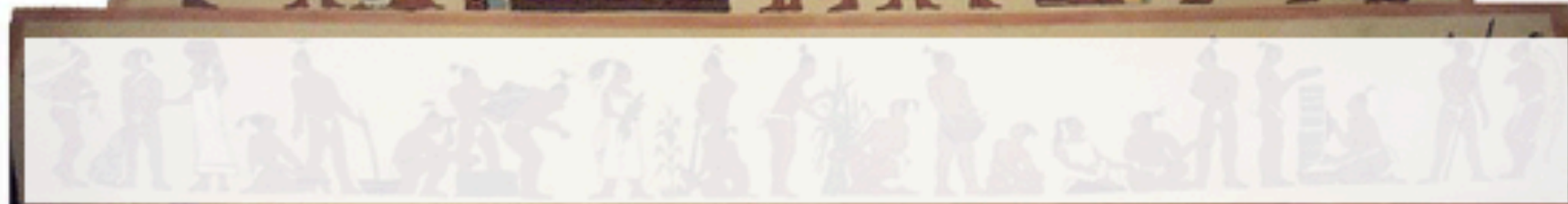
**Council (Priesthood) - often part of the Royal Family**



**Nobles**



**Merchants  
&  
Artisans**



**Commoners - Farmers (and Slaves)**



**In war ‘the Aztecs are the cruelest people imaginable, for they spare no-one, not even their closest relative, and they respect neither age nor sex; they kill and eat all their enemies if they cannot take them into captivity... they were so cannibalistic, so greedy for human flesh, that they disdained all other food in comparison with this meat, and frequently went to war and risked their lives to satisfy their gluttonous appetites. For the rest, they are all sodomites and drunkards.’** *François de Belleforest* (‘Histoire Universelle du Monde’)

**‘[The Aztecs were still a] breech cloth people wearing the rag of barbarism as an unmistakable evidence of their condition... There was neither a political society, nor a state, nor any civilisation in America when it was discovered,’** *L.H. Morgan* (‘Montezuma’s Dinner’)

- **Civilized:** having an advanced or humane culture, society, etc. polite; well bred; refined. Easy to manage or control; well organized or ordered
- **Barbaric:** savagely cruel; exceedingly brutal, primitive; unsophisticated





The Americas

# Incan Peoples:

West coast of South America, Andes Mountain people

Paved roads to connect their settlements

Achievements: one spoken language, laws, and irrigation

key to survival: llamas

Never had a system of writing

Instead they kept records in a system called quipu

A series of knots on parallel strings







**INCAS OR AZTECS?**

