

Mesoamerican and Andean Civilization: (Mayas, Aztecs, Incas)

Time Period:	<u>Maya</u> : 300-900	<u>Aztec</u> : 1200s-1521	<u>Inca</u> : pre 1400s-1535
Geographic Description:	-Yucatan Peninsula -Rainforest	-Valley of Mexico -Swampland	-Andes Mountain -Modern day Peru to Chile -Terrace farming
Political:	-Capital: Tikel -Each village had their own ruling chief, priest and warriors due to rainforests -Ruled through city-states	-Capital: Tenochtitlan -Single emperor was chosen by council of nobles and priest (officials) -Warriors gained land and tribute for conquered towns	-Capital: Cuzco -Absolute rule under emperor –Inca was title and had divine status and believed to be son of Sun god -Gov't controlled the people
Economic:	-Majority farmers -Men grew crops: maize (corn), bean and squash; Women covert it to food -Taxes paid by food -Traded honey, cocoa, and feathers -Agriculturally based	-Majority farmers -grew sim products as mayas -Converted swampland in farmland (Chinampas) -Wealth came from tribute and trade -Agriculturally based -merchants acted as spies -contacts with Mississippian cultures	-Farming -Trade(Gov't controlled it) -POTATOES -Taxes -Gold and Silver mines -Had markets -Agriculturally based -Incan socialism to combat famine in parts of the empire
Religion:	-Polytheistic -Priest were high ranking -Human sacrifices (rationale was that the Americas lacked large domesticated animals that Eastern Hemispheric civs were sacrificing instead) -Temples	-Polytheistic -Priest held power -Main god = Sun god -Human sacrifices -temples	-Polytheistic -Priest held a lot of power -Main god = Sun god -Human sacrifices -temples
Social:	-Priest held great power -Women made the food and men cultivated them -Nobles managed public works, collected taxes and enforced laws	-Women (subordinate) were secluded in households and were skilled in weaving -Majority farmed -Warriors could obtain nobility -Merchant acted as spies	-Women wove cloths and took care of household -Men=peasant and herders -Nobility expressed by attire and custom -Many arranged marriages Incan socialism (mita)
Intellectual:	-Hieroglyphics -Books made of bark -365 day calendar -Concept of zero -Cleared dense rainforest -Raised fields to grow enough food by catching rainwater for irrigation- slash and burn -mathematics, astronomy (helped determined where priests placed temples)	-Chinampas (floating gardens) -Accurate calendars -Set broken bones and treated cavities -Stone causeways -Huge pyramid temples -Used herbs and medicine to cure fevers and wounds	-Irrigation system, terraces (step farming), road system -Road runners were messengers -Quipu (colorful knots) instead of writing system -Astronomy -Head surgery -Calendar
Art:	-Paintings, carvings on walls of temples -Large palaces, temples and stone pillars (tallest structures in North America until 1900s)	-Aqueducts and canals were made -Stone causeways -Huge pyramid temples	-Pottery, painting, portraits, ceramics, gold work, instruments, costumes, architecture, gold work, wood carving
Decline:	-Cities were abandoned -Many possibilities what could've happened to them: overpopulation, warfare(external and civil) or revolts	-Hernan Cortes landed in Mexico in 1519 -Had advanced technology and horses -Diseases: measles, small pox -Enemies of the Aztec joined him	-Francisco Pizarro subdued Incas by 1535 -Advanced technology, military and horses -Diseases
Global connections/interactions	-Gupta with concept of zero and mathematics shows somewhat of a comparable thinking -used Hieroglyphics as Egyptians did	-Similar to Incas -Aqueducts like Romans as well as imperial conquest -used tribute system like Mongols	-Similar to Aztecs -roads comparable to Rome and China and Imperial conquests -Abbasid dynasty studied Astronomy

Taking into consideration their global isolation to the Eastern Hemisphere, the Mesoamerican and Andean civilizations were advanced.