



THE AMERICAS



POST-CLASSICAL
(600 CE-1450 CE)

FREEMAN-PEDIA

MAJOR CITIES: TENOCHTITLAN, CAHOKIA, TIMBUKTU, VENICE, NOVGOROD, MOMBASSA, BAGHDAD, CALICUT, MALAKA, HUANGZHOU

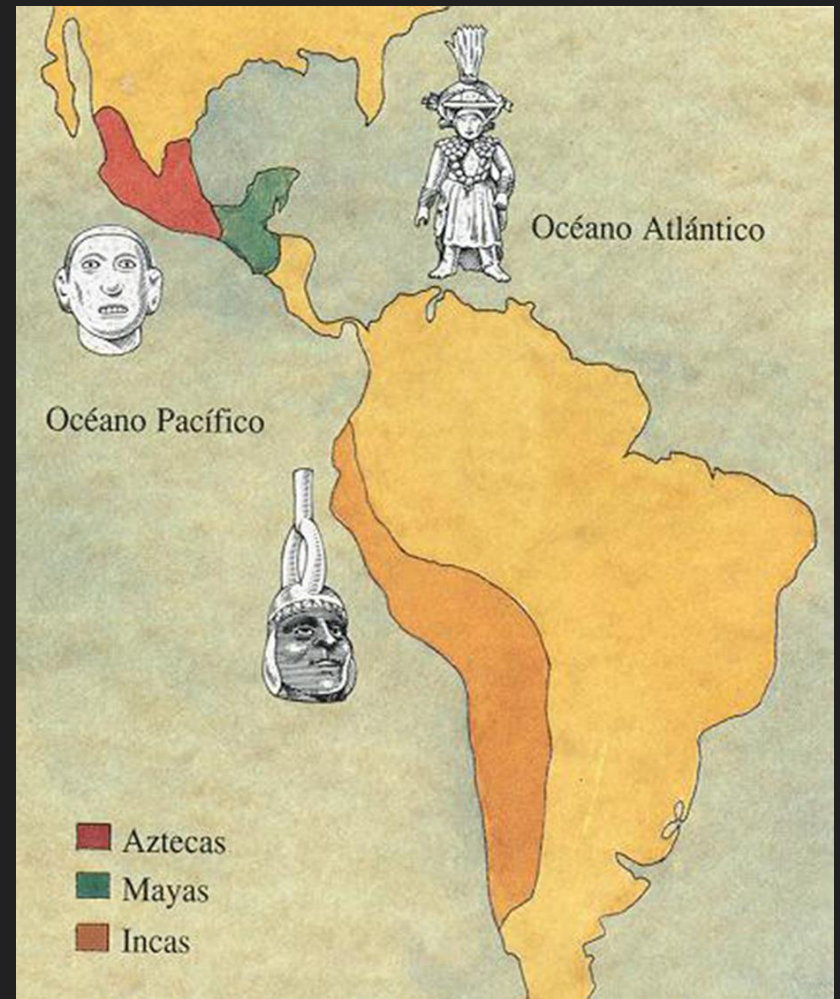
EMPIRES:

AZTEC EMPIRE	EARLY AFRICAN CIVILIZATION	VIKINGS	ITALIAN CITY STATES	BYZANTINE EMPIRE
ISLAMIC CALIPHATES	INCA EMPIRE	DELHI SULTANATE	隋唐宋 IMPERIAL CHINA	MONGOL EMPIRE

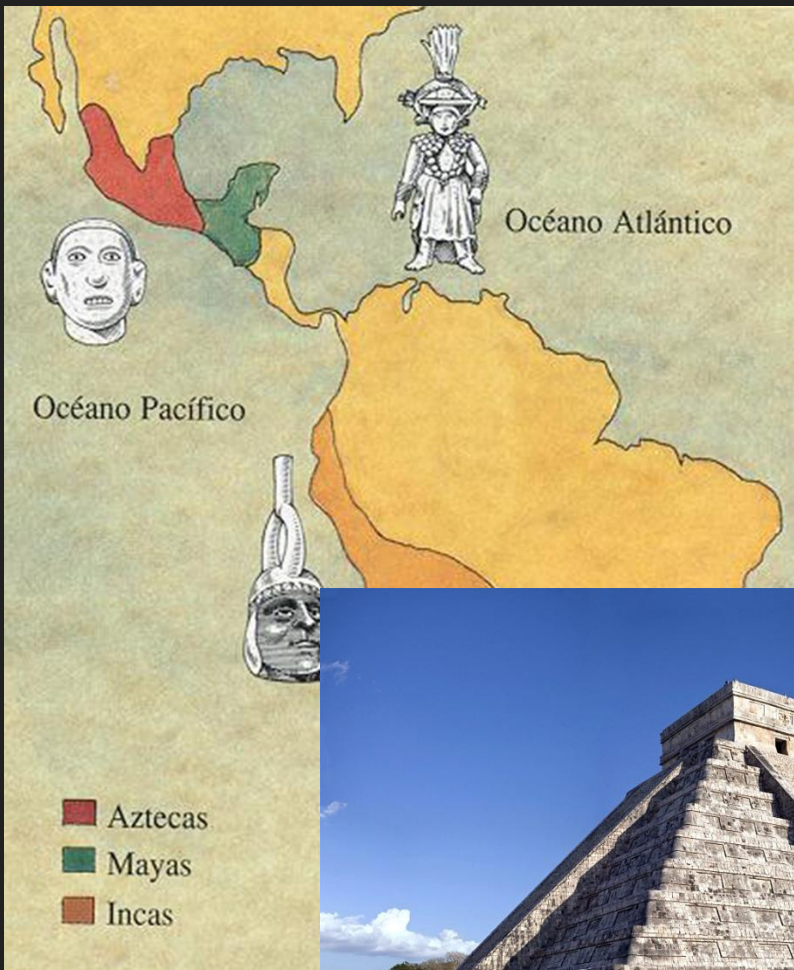
TRADE ROUTES: INDIAN OCEAN MEDITERRANEAN SEA SILK ROAD TRANS-SAHARAN ANDES MESO-AMERICAN

WESTERN HEMISPHERE CIVILIZATIONS

Isolation from
Eastern
Hemisphere



CLASSICAL MESOAMERICA: MAYA



- c. 250 CE – c. 900 CE
- Heirs of Olmecs
- Ceremonial center at Kaminaljuyu (held a relationship with Teotihuacan)
- Large cities with peasant populations on the periphery
- 40 cities of 5,000 to 50,000 people

CLASSICAL MESOAMERICA: MAYA

- Slash and burn (shifting) agriculture
 - Fed large population
- Terraced farming
 - Maize, cotton, cacao, beans, squash
 - Men seed and harvest | Women prepared food and raised deer

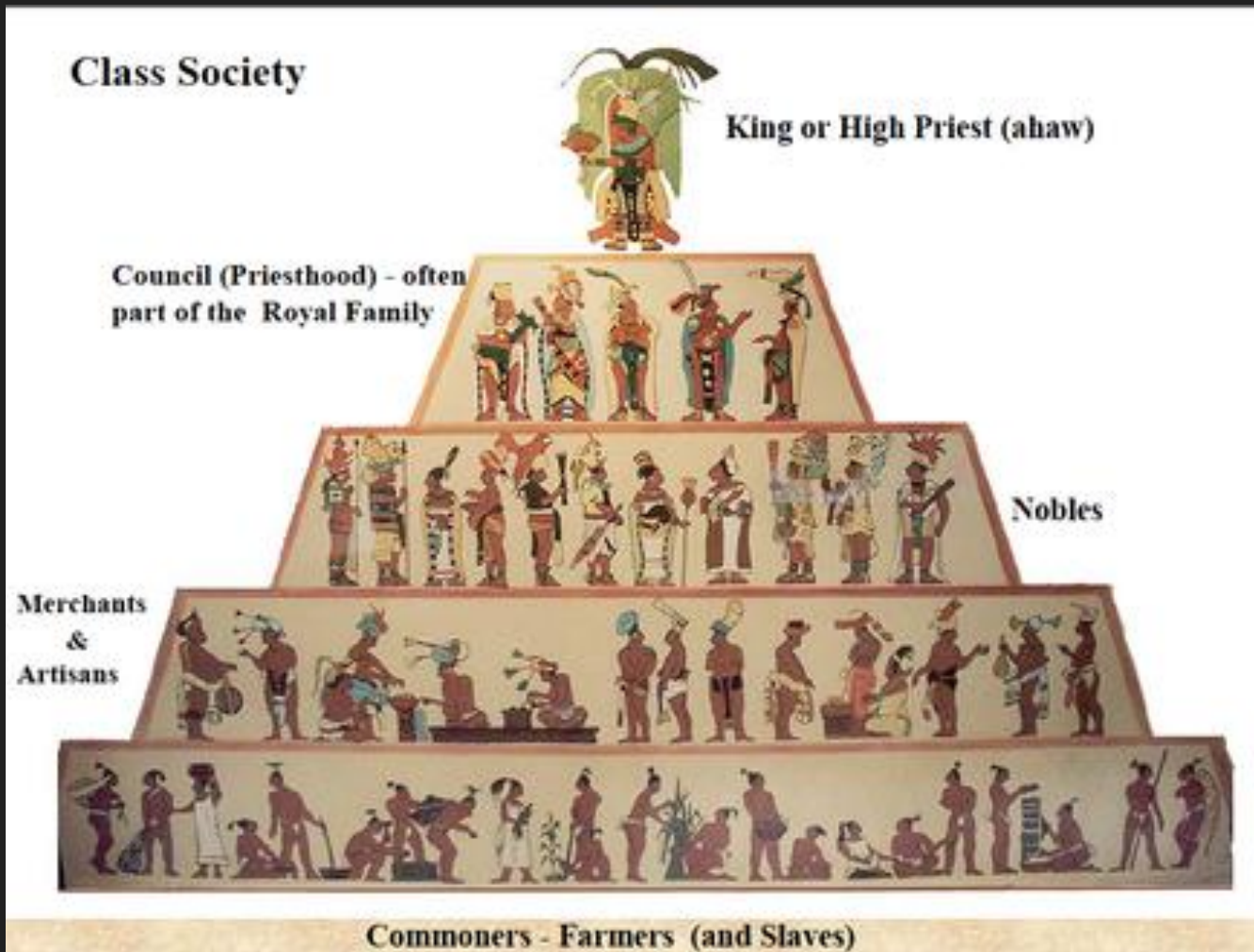


CLASSICAL MESOAMERICA: MAYA

- Cities were religious and administrative centers
 - used limestone blocks to build religious centers
 - Centers grew into cities with pyramids, palaces, and temples, stelae (memorial pillars)
 - Temples also as observatories for astronomer
- relied on a large number of people to build



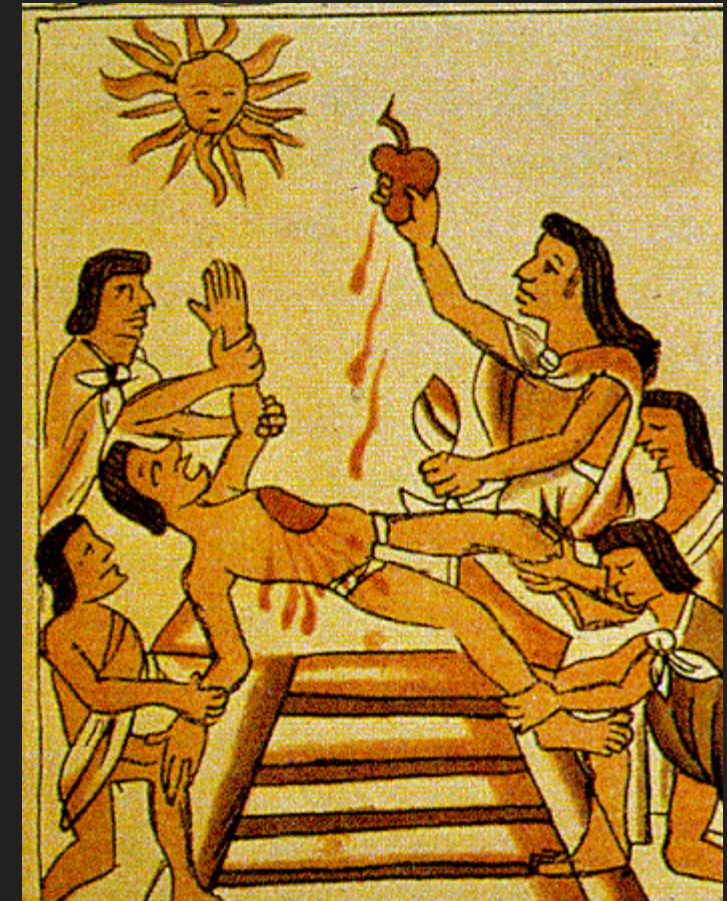
CLASSICAL MESOAMERICA: MAYA



- Strict social classes
- Hereditary
- Warriors in a special class
- No middle class
- King considered descendant of a god
- Citizens – pay taxes, provide labor, military service
- Women were nearly equal

CLASSICAL MESOAMERICA: MAYA

- Government: City – States
- Women allowed to govern
- Kings communicated with ancestral spirits
- Wars often occurred to gain tribute and get captives for human sacrifices during religious ceremonies



CLASSICAL MESOAMERICA: MAYA

- Religion was central
 - Pantheon of gods – moon, sun, rain, corn
 - Human sacrifice
- Priests had magical powers giving them access to underworld
- Please the gods through bloodletting – victims lacerated before being decapitated to produce more blood

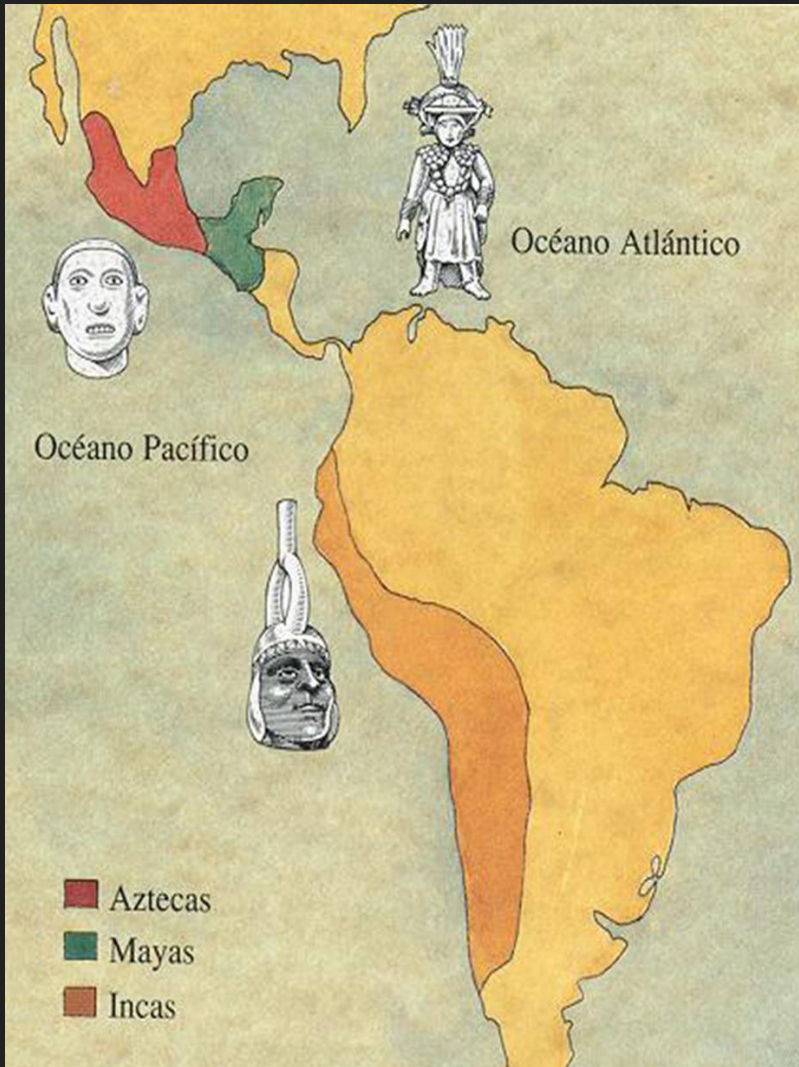


CLASSICAL MESOAMERICA: MAYA



- Priests constructed elaborate calendars
 - Solar based on agricultural cycle (365 days) and ritual (260 days)
 - Advanced writing system (850 characters)
 - Concept of 0
- Mayan began to leave cities about 900 CE and within 100 years the cities disappeared
 - Overcrowded cities; environmental damage (deforestation; warfare; drought)
 - Moved to rural areas

POST-CLASSICAL MESOAMERICA: AZTECS (MEXICAS)



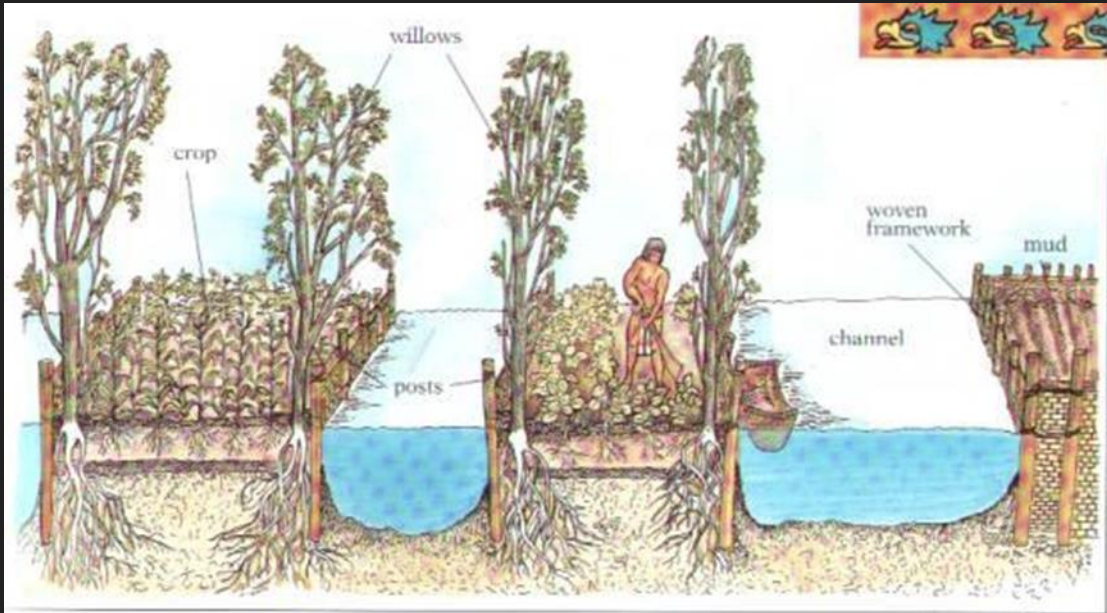
- Hunter gatherers who migrated to central Mexico in the 1200s
- 1325 – built Tenochtitlán (current Mexico City)
- Large city, position on small island in Lake Texcoco, connected by causeways | great for defense

POST-CLASSICAL MESOAMERICA: AZTECS (MEXICAS)



Agriculture

- Chinampas – floating gardens
 - Maximize space for food production
 - Used ditch irrigation
- Maize – staple crop | supplemental crops grown on chinampas
- No Pack animals – human labor and hand tools



POST-CLASSICAL MESOAMERICA: AZTECS (MEXICAS)

- Aztecs rose through military might
 - Aggressive expansion
- Tribute system
- Semi-divine king (Great Speaker) top of social structure
 - Nobles -- ruled conquered people like feudal lords
 - Allowed local leadership to remain in place
 - Military leaders
 - Merchants (pochteca)
 - Free people
 - soldiers
 - Serfs and slaves – war captives | ppl in debt | crime punishment
 - Used for sacrifices and labor



POST-CLASSICAL MESOAMERICA: AZTECS (MEXICAS)

Patriarchal society ... but...

- Women received high honor for bearing warrior sons
- Women wove highly sought after clothe – given in tribute system
- Men could marry more than one wife
- Most worked in home
 - Few priestess
 - Midwives
 - Healers
 - Merchants
 - Noble women – scribes (literate)



POST-CLASSICAL MESOAMERICA: AZTECS (MEXICAS)

- Powerful group of priests
 - Advisers to the king
- Elaborate religious rituals
- Pantheon of gods
- Chief god needed blood which came from frequent human sacrifices
 - Thousands taken captive for that purpose – atonement for the sacrifice the gods made to create earth

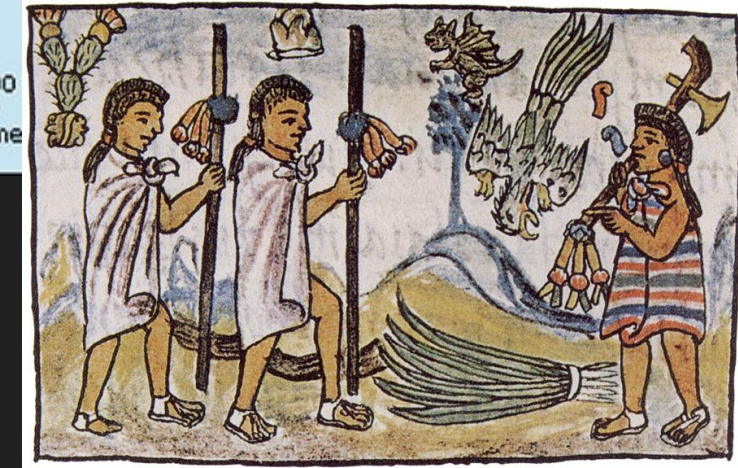


POST-CLASSICAL MESOAMERICA: AZTECS (MEXICANS)

- Used and extended the trade networks established by the Mayan
- Traded as far north as central California, Costa Rica, and coastal regions

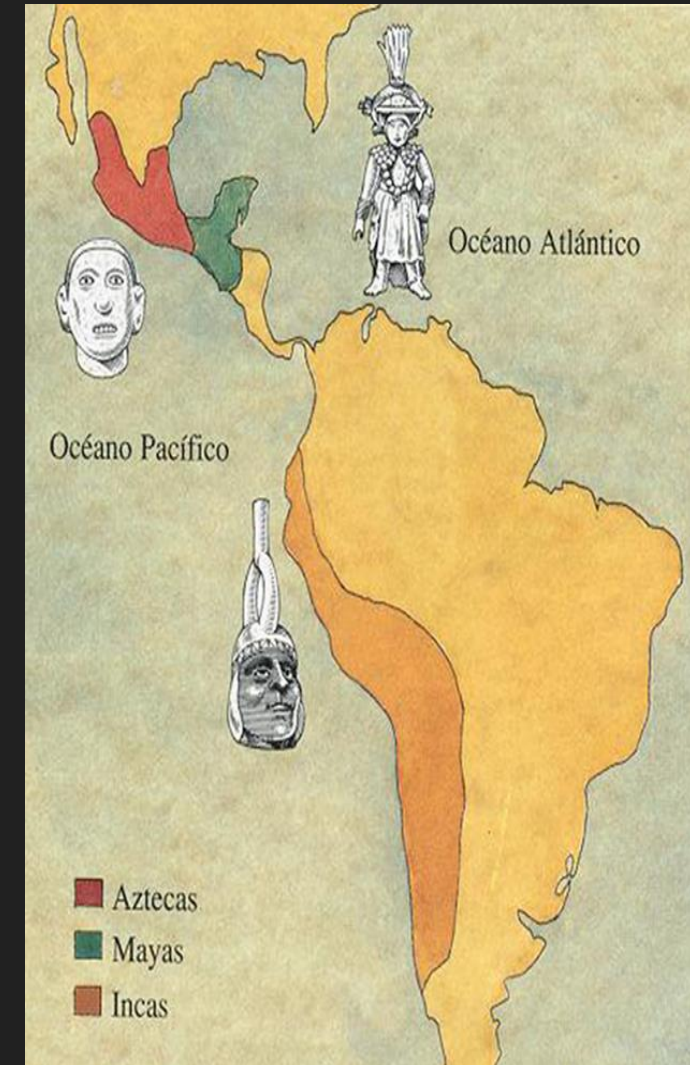
Decline

- Late 1400s
- Arduous and inefficient agriculture
- Overextended empire
- Resentment of conquered people
- European disease
- Hernán Cortés (1519) vs Montezuma



ANDEAN CIVILIZATIONS: INCA

- Early 15th century – 1572
- Cuzco – capital city
- Began expanding under **Pachacuti Inca** (1438 -1471)
- Empire split into 4 provinces
 - Governor
 - Conquered people
 - Loyal leaders were rewarded
 - Commoners subjected to the **mit'a system**
 - Forced to assimilate to Incan culture
- Few markets and local trade
- Agrarian economy – maize, potatoes, tomatoes, squash, peanuts, coca, and cotton
- Local people paid taxes (food) to local leaders who stored food





CHINAMPAS

LOCATION: AMERICA
SIGNIFICANCE:
UNIQUE MESO-AMERICAN "FLOATING" GARDENS THAT WERE BUILT IN SHALLOW LAKE BEDS. PROVIDED 2/3 OF ALL FOOD TO TENOCHTITLAN.



WARU WARU

LOCATION: AMERICA
SIGNIFICANCE:
ALTERNATING ROWS OF CROPS & IRRIGATION CHANNELS LIMITING EROSION & INCREASING RAIN WATER COLLECTION.



TERRACING

LOCATION: EARTH
SIGNIFICANCE:
USED TO CREATE ARABLE LAND ON MOUNTAINSIDES AVOIDING EROSION. FOUND FROM PHILIPPINES TO PERU.

ANDEAN CIVILIZATIONS: INCA



- Ruler was considered a deity descended from the sun god: Inti
- Honoring the Sun and royal ancestor veneration – center of religion
- Animism – polytheistic
- Religious festival once a month
- Each god had its own temple and priest
- Priests highly educated

Social Classes	Representatives
Inca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sapa Inca
Royalty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Auqui: Son of the Sapa Inca. ■ The Coya: Wife of the Sapa Inca ■ Royal Panacas: First generations of each Pañaca (royal relative).
Nobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nobility of Blood: Other members of las Pañacas (royal relatives). ■ Nobility of Privilege: Those who had attained distinction through their services; Sacerdotes & Aellas; High chiefs.
Ayllu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hatun Runa: The general public. ■ Mitimaes: Those belonging to newly conquered races. ■ Yanaconas: Servers of the Inca and Empire, many of which were prisoners.



ANDEAN CIVILIZATIONS: INCA

- Quipu – used for recording trade and engineering
- Skilled stone workers
- Well-organized military and road system
 - Runners carried messages – quipu messages
 - Used mit'a system to build massive roadway system Carpa Nan (25,000 miles)
- Quechua language
- Self sufficient



ANDEAN CIVILIZATIONS: INCA

Decline

- Civil War
- European disease
- Francisco Pizarro (1532)

