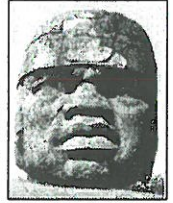



# Civilizations of the Americas

**Directions: Complete the notes on the Maya, Aztecs, and Incas using the following sources of information:**

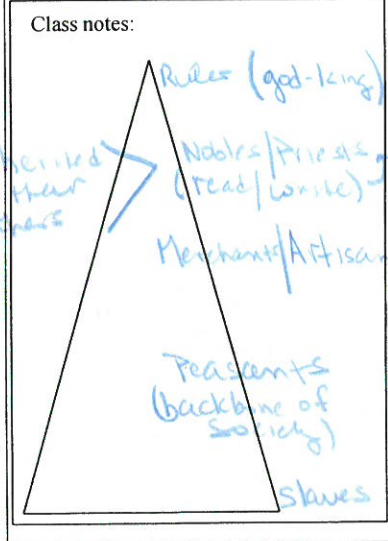
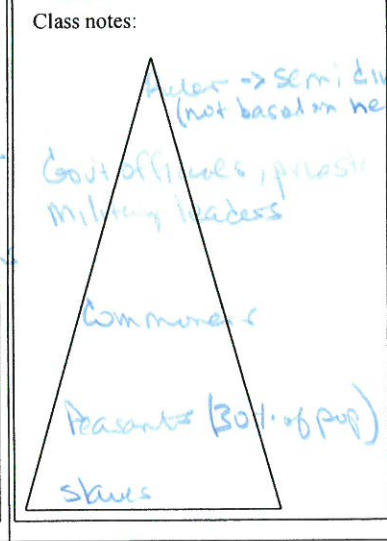
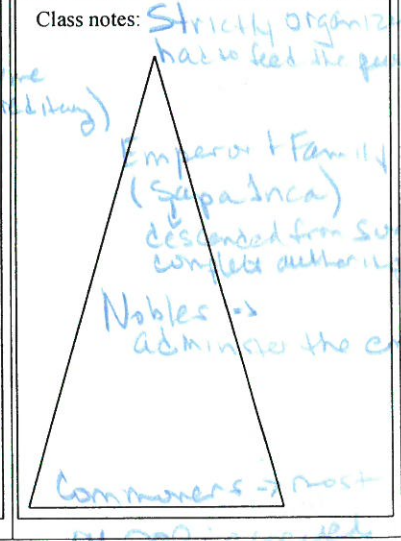
- Textbook: *Western Hemisphere* by Prentice Hall (pages 304-312)
- Article: *Cultures of Latin America: Aztecs, Maya, and Incas*
- Textbook: *History Alive!: The Medieval World and Beyond* by TCI (pages 301-307 concerning achievements)
- Atlas: *Atlas of World History* by Nystrom (pages 70-75)



Class notes: World Atlas: Isthmus of Tehuantepec; Bay of Campeche  
 Hist. Atlas: First Mesoamerican civ (c. 1400 BCE - 400 BCE)  
 LITHIC is known; Large religious centers, monuments (Colossal heads)

Topic	Maya	Aztecs	Incas
Time Frame	c. 300 - 900 (600 yrs)	1200s - 1521 (321 yrs)	1400s - 1535 (135 yrs)
Reasons for Decline	Unknown, Possible reasons: - crop failures - war - disease - drought - famine.	Spanish arrived in 1519 → conquered by 1521 Conquistador: <u>Hernando Cortez</u>	Spanish arrived in 1532 → conquered by 1533 → all by 1535 Conquistador: <u>Francisco Pizarro</u>
Relative Location	Relative location: Yucatan Peninsula & through central America Major cities included: 1. Copan (Honduras) 2. Tikal (Guatemala) <u>Chichen Itza</u> Over 40 cities (city states)	Relative location: Valley of Mexico (central Mexico) - present day Mexico City Settled on an island in Lake Texcoco Major city: Tenochtitlan	Relative location: Andes Mts (Cuzco Valley) → Empire stretched 2,500 miles Major cities: 1. Cuzco 2. <u>Machu Picchu</u> (fortress)
Reasons for Location Hint: Focus on physical features	Tropical climate Low latitudes than moderate to tropical climate Rivers Low lands (plains) for farming Trade routes	 Low latitudes = moderate climate Rivers	Atahualpa Huitzilopochtli (god of war) what to build. Stated: where you will see an eagle perched on a cactus growing on a rocky outcrop in a swamp Adapted the land → built artificial island Lake Titicaca

(over)  
 Reading → city states compared; Colhuas forced Aztecs over (after Aztecs killed daughter of Colhua chief)

Topic	Maya	Aztecs	Incas
Culture	<p>What was life based on? Provide three supporting details as evidence.</p> <p>Farming - MAIZE → main food - Also: beans, Squash, Peppers, Avocados, Papayas - slash + burn agriculture</p> <p>* Played Pok-a-tok (cross between Soccer + Basketball)</p> <p>Religion: Polytheistic → worshipped many gods Cities were religious centers Worshipped the god of <u>corn</u></p> <p>Class notes:</p> 	<p>What was life based on? Provide three supporting details as evidence.</p> <p>Warriors conquered surrounding regions → forced to pay tribute (food, cotton, gold, or slaves) ⇒ Grew rich</p> <p>All men trained to be soldiers</p> <p>Religion: Polytheistic Human sacrifices → for the sun god Religion dominated life</p> <p>Class notes:</p> 	<p>What was life based on? Provide three supporting details as evidence.</p> <p>Grew in size through war + conquest</p> <p>Highland → crops varied depending on elevation * potatoes very important</p> <p>Religion: Polytheistic "Children of the Sun" → Inti was the sun god</p> <p>Class notes:</p> 

(next page)

of pop, organized to support the gov't by labor + taxes  
Most food to gov't → would distribute to all

Topic	Maya	Aztecs	Incas
<p>Achievements/ Accomplishments</p> <p>Solar 365, 2420 days ←</p> <p>Also used a 260 Sacred Calendar (Calendar Round)</p>	<p><b>Science and Technology:</b>            Studied stars &amp; planets →            accurate calendar            Number system like            the decimal system →            used the concept of            Zero            Based on the number            20</p>	<p><b>Science and Technology:</b>            Doctors made more than            1,000 medicines from plants            Astronomy → predicted            eclipses &amp; movements of            planets            Created a calendar →            Adapted from Mayas            → most human            in Sun Stone</p> <p>Tenochtitlan →            Chinampas (artificial            islands)            Causeways (3)            Aqueducts            Canals</p>	<p><b>Science and Technology:</b>            19,000 miles of roads &amp;            Suspension bridges            Canals &amp; aqueducts →            developed for terrace            farming            Trephination (surgery) -            remove part of skull</p>
	<p><b>Arts and Architecture:</b>            Murals            steles → often            placed in front            of temples            Weaving            temple - pyramids →            Corbel vault            (triangular archway)</p>	<p><b>Arts and Architecture:</b>            Poetry, music, dance,            sculpture            Massive stone temples →            double stairways            ("Great Temple")</p>	<p><b>Arts and Architecture:</b>            Making of textiles for            clothing → quality &amp;            design = status            Gold (sweat of the sun) →            jewelry, temples, etc.            Music → panpipes,            flutes, etc.            sturdy stone buildings →            did not need cement</p>
	<p><b>Language and Writing:</b>            Hieroglyphics            - most complex            in the Americas            - hundreds of            glyphs            No main language →            spoke related            dialects</p>	<p><b>Language and Writing:</b>            Hieroglyphics → glyphs            Pictographs            Spoke Nahuatl</p>	<p><b>Language and Writing:</b>            No written language →            used quipus (knotted            strings)            Spoke Quechua (~10            million still speak today)</p>

