

Early Civilizations of the Americas

Comparison chart: fill in each box as you read

Name _____ Date _____

Civilization	Where	When	Food	Achievements	Buildings	Today
Olmec						
Maya						
Aztec (Mexico)						
Inca						
Ancestral Puebloans						
Mound Builders (Adena, Hopewell, Mississippian)						

Answer Key

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Civilization	Where	When	Food	Achievements	Buildings	Today
Olmec	Gulf Coast of Mexico	about 1200–400 B.C.	corn, beans, squash, fish	colossal stone heads; jade carving; early ballgame	Earthen pyramid at La Venta	ideas carried on by later peoples of Mexico
Maya	Southern Mexico and Central America	great cities A.D. 250–900; last kingdom fell 1697	corn, beans, squash, chiles, cacao	writing (glyphs); zero; calendars; astronomy	Stepped pyramids; Tikal, Palenque, Chichén Itzá	more than 11 million Maya people; about 30 Maya languages
Aztec (Mexico)	Valley of Mexico	Tenochtitlan 1325–1521	corn, beans, squash, chiles, tomatoes, cacao	Chinampas; large empire and markets; Sun Stone	Templo Mayor; causeways; canals	Mexico City; about 1.6 million Nahuatl speakers
Inca	Andes Mountains of South America	empire about 1438–1533	potatoes, quinoa, corn; llamas and alpacas	roads and rope bridges; terraces; quipus	Machu Picchu; stone walls without mortar	about 7–10 million Quechua speakers
Ancestral Puebloans	Four Corners (AZ, NM, CO, UT)	about A.D. 750–1300	corn, beans, squash, turkeys	multistory buildings; roads; sun and moon alignments; turquoise trade	Pueblo Bonito; Cliff Palace	Hopi, Zuni, and other Pueblo nations
Mound Builders (Adena, Hopewell, Mississippian)	Ohio and Mississippi river valleys	about 800 B.C.–A.D. 1600	corn, squash, sunflowers; hunting, fishing, nuts	giant earthworks; trade across North America	Monks Mound at Cahokia	Muscogee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and other nations