

Precolumbian America

U.S. History to 1877

Earliest Americans

- First arrivals
 - *50–35,000 years ago?*
- Main invasion
 - *11,000 years ago*

Development of Agriculture

- 10,000 years ago: NW Mexico or SW U.S.
 - *Beans, gourds, squash*
- 5000 years ago
 - *Cotton, corn, pottery*

Rise of American civilization

- Olmec “mother culture”
 - *Mexican coast, 1500-900 BC*
 - Temple mounds & stone monuments
 - Cities & social classes
 - Priests & armies

Mayans in the Jungles of Yucatan

Mayan civilization

- Peak 600-900 AD
 - *Hieroglyphics*
 - *Advanced astronomy, calendar, mathematics*

Aztecs Conquer Central Mexico

- Tenochtitlán
 - *Established 1325*

Aztecs Conquer Central Mexico

- Rise of empire from 1427 to 1521

Aztec Civilization

The Inca Empire

- Mountain civilization in the Andes of South America
- Rapid expansion from Cuzco, 1438-1525

Incan Civilization

- Densest population
 - *Terraces*
 - *Irrigation*
- Centralized
 - *12,000 mi. of roads*

Incan Civilization

- Architects
- Engineers
- Artisans

Mississippian Moundbuilders

Cahokia, Illinois

- Peak 1100-1200
- Up to 20,000 inhabitants

The Anasazi of the Southwest

- Peak 1100-1300

Woodland culture

- Seminomadic
- Burial mounds
- Wigwam & longhouse
- Wampum, calumet, canoe

Contrast between New World & Old

Contact of New World and Old

- Epidemics & demographic disaster
- Trade, dependence, cultural change
- Contributions to the Old World