

## Geography



## Early Civilizations in North America

Migration from Asia across Bering Strait

### Olmeecs

- "Rubber People"
- "Mother" Civilization of Mesoamerica
- Traders
- Played pok-a-tok games
- Temples/Pyramids
- "Colossal Heads"



## Maya, Aztec, & Inca

## Maya

- Located primarily on Yucatan Peninsula
- Economy = Agriculture
- Govt. = City-states ruled by Kings
- Premier cities = Chichén Itzá, Tikal
- Strict social classes
  - Priests, Nobles, Warriors – Upper class
- Polytheistic Religion
  - Human Sacrifices
  - Pyramid temples
- Achievements
  - Hieroglyphics
  - 365-day Calendar
  - Number system
  - Astronomy



Pyramid at Chichén Itzá

## Inca

- Developed in Andes Mountains
- Economy = Agriculture
  - High-Altitude Farming; Terrace Farming
- Government = Emperor
  - Socialized Economy; Govt. controlled
- Premier Cities = Cuzco; Machu Picchu
- Religion = Polytheistic
  - Chief god – Sun god
- Achievements
  - Quipus (Record-keeping); Engineering;
  - Vast Road network



Alpaca looking over Machu Picchu



Chinampas

Spanish invade Aztecs and Inca

## Aztec

- Located in Central Mexico
- Economy = Agriculture
  - Chinampas – floating gardens
- Government = Empire
  - Trade & Tribute from conquered peoples
- Premier City = Tenochtitlan
  - Located on Lake Texcoco
- Religion = Polytheistic
  - Chief god – Sun god
  - Rituals based on warfare
- Achievements
  - Causeways, Aqueducts, Dams, Canals, Pyramids