

Name _____

Date _____



Mesoamerica

"Hay Nativos"

Hey boys and girls, today we're going to be talking about Mesoamerica. After the Ice Age, people began moving across the Bering Strait into North America. They left northeast Asia and migrated through what is now Alaska, all the way down to South America. By the Middle Ages, these people had gotten organized. Some of these civilizations were far more advanced than the Europeans would ever imagine.

In modern-day Veracruz,
Archaeologists pick up a pair of clues.
They saw pyramids and giant stone heads,
And learned they belonged to the Olmecs.
They discovered the mother culture,
The first cities, artisans, sculptors.
Now that's around 1200 BC,
The Maya came next with similarities.
Advanced agriculturists in the Yucatan,
With city-states, the illest that you could plan.
Like Tikal, they found in Guatemala,
They used intercropping and reservoirs for water.
They had a calendar and a writing system,
But a ball game where you could die a victim.
Slavery, sacrifice, it was a risky time,
And we don't know why they disappeared in 869!

Sudamerica, Centroamerica, Mesoamerica:

Hay nativos! (There are natives!)

Olmec, Maya, Aztec, Inca,

The original American thinkers.

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Tikal, Tenochtitlan, Machu Picchu:

Cities of some of the original people.

Who has next? Oh, that would be the Aztecs,

Don't have horses, so they run the fastest.

They kept control of a portion of the atlas in Mexico,

Around Lake Texcoco.

They're like, "If we roam we might not be strong,"

So they built a big city, Tenochtitlan.

A city on a lake; they'd bathe twice a day,

Plant corn, grind it up, make it into pancakes.

They had schools every kid attended,

They learned how to write, yep, also how to fight.

Imagine if one day your teacher was like,

"After math, I'll show you how to attack with an ax."

Aztecs would take slaves and captives

From their enemies; that's just part of their tactics.

The fact is, they were sharper than a cactus,

They sacrificed humans, it seemed like madness.

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While the Aztecs were in Mexico,

The Incas were building a kingdom, exceptional.
At its height in the 12th century,
It stretched from Ecuador to Chile.
Essentially based at Peru, in the city of Cuzco,
To connect various tribes they used roads.
They built aqueducts in the Andes,
And they farmed terraces, y'all, to feed families.
We're talking over a million residents,
They were developing some of the best medicines.
Plus, the king had style,
Machu Picchu – the city of the clouds.
But from the ground, it vanished,
The secret, never found by the Spanish.
The people asked was it used for astronomy?
9,000 feet, and the views are astonishing.

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