GENERAL

can divide into three geographic areas: North America, Mesoamerica, Andean

remember developed entirely separate from Old World

did have large cities and political and econ org, but when faced with challenge crumbled

highly developed agriculture, elaborate cultural systems

many areas densely populated by 1500

lot of diversity of Indians!

very separate (this meant that could not borrow from other cultures!)

no horses

ORIGINS

Asian peoples who crossed ice bridge over a long period between 20,000 and 8,000 bce
slowly spread out

stone age tools found

little known of ice age hunting society

small groups of 20-25

some physical diversity
by 1500 2,000 different languages in use

archaic period, 9,000 bce-5000 bce
evidence of plant domestication in number of regions
slow change from hunting gathering

by 4,000 bce maize in Central Mexico and peppers, squash and beans
spread north and south, allowed higher population density

in Amazon basin, manioc, or cassava, a flour root
potatoes in Andes

two early cultural centers: Mesoamerica and the Andean uplands

both areas experienced cultural cycles

basically just a string of centers from Peru to Mexico

usually hereditary chiefs

social hierarchies

**MESOAMERICA**

vertical zones from lowland to highland (also a feature of Andean civ)

very early on, small permanent settlements appeared

A. Olmec

  general
  
on southeastern coast
  suddenly emerged 1500 BCE
  sites at San Lorenzo and La Venta
  "mother civilization" of the area?
  maize central
  hereditary rulers
  elaborate religious ceremony
  calendar years of 365 days
  jade carvers

  Mystery

  by 900 BCE widely diffused

B. Zapotec

  meanwhile Zapotec center at Monte Alban by 500 CE
  urban center of 30,000 people
  writing system

  150-900 CE, classical age

C. Teotihuacan, valley of Mexico

  enormous urban center, maybe 200,000
huge temple pyramids
defined social structure
many gods
influence spread as far south as Guatemala

D. Maya, 300-900 ce
southern mexico and central american centers
tropical
    large area with regional variations (Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador
cities: Tikal, Copan, Quirigua, Palenque
better sources because remnants lasted longer
monumental architecture
writing
did write, cannot read, most combined phonic and semantic system
calendar and math
    used 0, base 20
    ritual and solar calendars made a cycle of 52
    3114 bce considered the start of cycle since creation
religion and statecraft
    flat earth, 13 levels of heaven above, nine below, all with a god
    lot of dualism, good/bad, night/day, male/female
irrigation used
    ritual ball court and also ritual human sacrifice
large pyramids and temples
constant warfare between city-states
ruler, scribe and priest elite
    by far most were peasants
    slaves from war capture

700-900 ce, classical age collapse

Teotihuacan itself destroyed in 650
    Maya cities abandoned
    by 900 most deserted
    Northern Maya areas did tend to survive longer

Was it warfare or agricultural exhaustion or disease?

E. Toltec
around 1000 Toltecs established supremacy around central plateau and controlled all
center was Tula
war empire for about 200 years

NORTH AMERICA

Mississippi river valley agriculture by 2000 bce

by 700 bce Adena culture in southern Ohio, large mounds

Hopewell culture, 200-500 ce
  very elaborate mounds

800-1300 ce, Mississippi valley civ

  large urban centers such as Cahokia, in Illinois
  we know little
  chief and four-layer class

American desert Indians
  pit houses
  Anasazi in four corner region

ANDEAN WORLD

  complex micro-regions

  highland plateaus key

  irrigation projects in arid strip and terracing projects in uplands
    This required states!

  many rise and fall alterations

A. Chavin de Huantar 850-250 bce
  llama domesticated
  large stone buildings
  fine craftsmen
  again not much known
  maize and potato

  no unity in region after 300 bce
B. Nazca on southern coast
   the famous lines on the plateau

C. Mohica state, 200-700 ce
   expanded by conquest

D. between 300-900 two regional states emerged
   Tihuanaco in north and Huari in south
   extensive irrigation
   idea of verticality
   self-sufficiency the goal
   kinship important