

Aim: What were the achievements of the Mayans? Mayan Notes

### I Mesoamerica

- a) Central America and South America
- b) Mother civilization The Olmec

### II Mayas

- 250-900 CE
- Located in the Yucatan peninsula
- Dominated South Mexico
- City-states ruled by same king and the Capital Tikal
- Ceremonial center- Chichen Itza
- Built pyramids and temples
- Religion
  - a. Polytheistic
  - b. Religious text: Popul Vuh explains story of creation
  - c. Quetzalcoatl: god who will return and rule
  - d. Human sacrifice

### III Warfare

- Religious rituals before battles
- Kings and nobles fight with soldiers
- Wanted slaves, not territory for farming
- Had no large animals

### IV Achievements

- Advanced farming
- Cotton and maize
- Pyramids and ball-courts for religious purposes
- Excellent mathematicians (concept of zero)
- Hieroglyphics
- 18 month 20 day calendar (lunar and solar calendars)

### V Collapse

- Late 800-900 Mayans vanished
- Believed to be:
  1. disease
  2. warfare
  3. drought
  4. natural disaster
- 900s Toltec take over Central Mexico
- 1200 collapse to Aztecs

### VI. Andean Civilization

- Oldest civilization was the Chavin 900 – 250 BCE
- They domesticated the Llama
- Skilled in weaving, pottery, metalworking

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VII. North American Civilizations

- a. The Anasazi or ancient ones settled in the Southwest
- b. Adena 500-100 BCE
- c. Hopewell 100 BCE-400 CE
- d. Mississippian 700-1500 CE