

Chapter

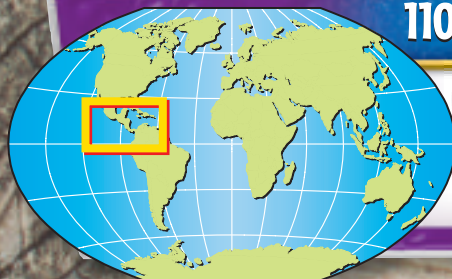
6

The Ancient Americas

▼ The ancient Mayan city of Chichén Itzá

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Where & When?



1100 B.C.

● c. 1200 B.C.
Olmec build an empire

400 B.C.

● c. A.D. 100
Moche civilization begins

A.D. 300

● c. A.D. 500
Mayan civilization reaches its peak

A.D. 1000

● c. A.D. 950
Mayan cities abandoned

CONTENTS

The Big Ideas

Section

1

The First Americans

Physical geography plays a role in how civilizations develop and

decline. The first people in the Americas arrived thousands of years ago. Farming led to the growth of civilizations in what is now Mexico, Central America, and Peru.

Section

2

The Mayan People

Civilizations are strengthened by a variety of advances. The Maya built a complex culture in Mesoamerica with great temples and made advances in science and writing.

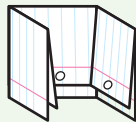


View the Chapter 6 video in the Glencoe Video Program.

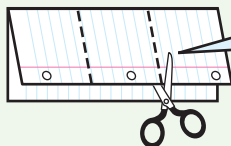
FOLDABLES™ Study Organizer

Step 1 Fold a sheet of paper in half from side to side.

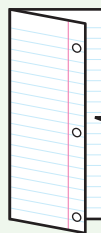
Step 2 Turn the paper and fold it into thirds.



Step 3 Unfold and cut only the top layer along both folds.

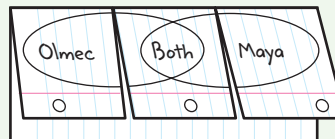


This will make three tabs.



Fold it so the left edge lies about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the right edge.

Step 4 Label as shown.



Reading and Writing

As you read the sections on the ancient Americas, record important concepts and events under the appropriate tabs. Then record ideas similar to both under the middle tab.

Get Ready to Read

Taking Notes



Reading Skill

1 Learn It!

When you do research for a report or study for a test, it helps to write down information so that you can refer to it later. By taking notes, you can:

- phrase the information in your own words
- learn to restate ideas in short, memorable phrases
- stay focused on main ideas and only the most important supporting details.

B

As the ice froze and the seas fell, an area of dry land was exposed between Asia and Alaska. Scientists call this land bridge Beringia (buh • RIHN • jee • uh), after Vitus Bering, a famous European explorer. They think that people in Asia followed the animals they were hunting across this land bridge into the Americas. By testing the age of bones and tools at ancient campsites, scientists estimate that the first people arrived between 15,000 and 40,000 years ago.

—from page 313

A

C

Reading Tip

Read first and take notes afterwards. You are likely to take down too much information if you take notes as you read.

These notes were recorded for the paragraph above.

- A. Asians followed animals across Beringia to the Americas
- B. Beringia—named after European explorer Vitus Bering
- C. People came to Americas about 15,000 to 40,000 years ago

2 Practice It!

Using a two-column chart can make note-taking easier. Write main ideas in the left column. In the right column, write at least two supporting details for each main idea. Read the text from this chapter under the heading **Mayan Culture** on pages 320–321. Then take notes using a two-column chart, such as the one below.

Main Idea	Supporting Details
Life in Mayan Cities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Mayan Science and Writing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
What Happened to the Maya?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

Read to Write

Choose an important person or place from the chapter. Then do research using at least three sources and take notes using the two-column method. Use your notes to write a brief paragraph summarizing your topic.



▲ Mayan ballplayer

3 Apply It!

As you read one of the sections, make a chart with important dates, names, places, and events as main ideas. Under each main idea, list at least two details from your reading.

Section

1

The First Americans

Guide to Reading



History Social Science Standards

WH.7.7 Students compare and contrast the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the Meso-American and Andean civilizations.

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

While civilization flourished in Mesopotamia, India, and China, thousands of miles away in the Americas, new civilizations began to develop.

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- People came to the Americas during the Ice Age, and about 10,000 years ago, farming began in Mesoamerica. (page 313)
- The first civilizations in America were based on farming and trade. (page 315)

Locating Places

Mesoamerica

(MEH•zoh•uh•MEHR•ih•kuh)

Teotihuacán

(TAY•oh•TEE•wuh•KAHN)

Meeting People

Olmec (OHL•mehk)

Maya (MY•uh)

Moche (MOH•cheh)

Content Vocabulary

glacier (GLAY•shuhr)

Academic Vocabulary

expose (ihk•SPOHZ)

estimate (EHS•tuh•MAYT)

Reading Strategy

Summarizing Information Create a chart to show the characteristics of the Olmec and Moche.

	Olmec	Moche
Location		
Dates		
Lifestyle		



Where & When?



1500 B.C.

c. 1200 B.C.
Olmec
build an
empire

A.D. 1

c. A.D. 100
Moche
civilization
begins

A.D. 500

c. A.D. 400
Teotihuacán
prosper



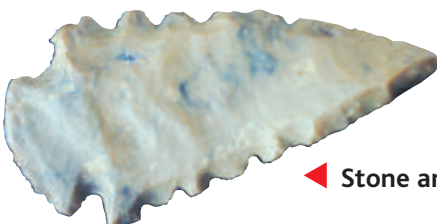
Farming in Mesoamerica

Main Idea People came to the Americas during the Ice Age, and about 10,000 years ago, farming began in Mesoamerica.

Reading Connection What would our lives be like if people never learned to farm? Read to learn how farming made civilization possible in Mesoamerica.

We know people came to America a long time ago, but how did they get here? Today, America is not connected by land to the rest of the world, but in the past it was. Scientists have studied the earth's geography during the Ice Age—a period when temperatures dropped sharply. At that time, much of the earth's water froze into huge sheets of ice, or **glaciers** (GLAY•shuhrz).

As the ice froze and the seas fell, an area of dry land was **exposed** between Asia and Alaska. Scientists call this land bridge Beringia (buh•RIHN•jee•uh), after Vitus Bering, a famous European explorer. They think that people in Asia followed the animals they were hunting across this land bridge into the Americas. By testing the age of bones and tools at ancient campsites, scientists **estimate** that the first people arrived between 15,000 and 40,000 years ago.



◀ Stone arrowhead

When the Ice Age ended about 10,000 years ago, the glaciers melted and released water back into the seas. The land bridge to America disappeared beneath the waves.

Hunting and Gathering Hunters in the Americas were constantly on the move in search of food. They fished and gathered nuts, fruits, or roots. They also hunted massive prey, such as the woolly mammoth, antelope, caribou, and bison.

It took several hunters to kill a woolly mammoth, which could weigh as much as 9 tons. These big animals provided meat, hides for clothing, and bones for tools.

As the Ice Age ended, some animals became extinct, or disappeared from the earth. Other animals found ways to survive

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Migration to America



the change in environment. The warm weather, however, opened new opportunities to early Americans.

The Agricultural Revolution in America

The first Americans were hunter-gatherers, but as the Ice Age ended and the climate warmed, people in America made an amazing discovery. They learned that seeds could be planted and they would grow into crops that people could eat.


Farming began in **Mesoamerica** (MEH • zoh • uh • MEHR • ih • kuh) 9,000 to 10,000 years ago. *Meso* comes from the Greek word for “middle.” This region includes lands stretching from the Valley of Mexico to Costa Rica in Central America.

The region’s geography was ideal for farming. Much of the area had a rich, volcanic soil and a mild climate. Rains fell in


the spring, helping seeds to sprout. They decreased in the summer, allowing crops to ripen for harvest. Then, in the autumn, the rains returned, soaking the soil for the next year’s crop.

The first crops grown in the Americas included pumpkins, peppers, squash, gourds, and beans. It took longer to develop corn, which grew as a wild grass. Early plants produced a single, one-inch cob. By about 2000 B.C., early Americans had learned the technique of crossing corn with other grasses to get bigger cobs and more cobs per plant. This increased the food supply and allowed Mesoamerican populations to grow. Corn, also known as maize, became the most important food in the Americas.

Reading Check Summarize How did the agricultural revolution begin in America?




Ancient American Civilizations




KEY

- Olmec c. 500 B.C.
- Moche c. A.D. 700
- Maya c. A.D. 750

▼ An Olmec stone head



Moche pottery in the shape of a llama ▼



Using Geography Skills

- Region** What geographical trait did all three civilizations share?
- Location** How far apart were the Mayan and Moche civilizations?



WH7.7.1 Study the locations, landforms, and climates of Mexico, Central America, and South America and their effects on Mayan, Aztec, and Incan economies, trade, and development of urban societies.

Early American Civilizations

Main Idea The first civilizations in America were based on farming and trade.

Reading Connection Have you ever traded something with your friend for something you wanted? Read to find out how early American civilizations traded goods to get what they needed.

Growing corn and other crops allowed Mesoamericans to form more complex societies. Starting around 1500 B.C., the first American civilizations appeared.

Who Were the Olmec? Near present-day Vera Cruz, Mexico, a people called the **Olmec** (OHL•mehk) built a far-reaching trading empire. It started around 1200 B.C. and lasted about 800 years.

The Olmec enjoyed rich farming resources. For example, they received abundant

rainfall and crops grew well. Instead of building irrigation systems, they built drainage systems to divert water to protect their crops.

The Olmec lacked important raw materials. They traded salt and beans with inland peoples to get jade for jewelry and obsidian, or volcanic glass, to make sharp-edged knives. They used other trade goods such as hematite, a shiny volcanic stone, to make polished mirrors and basalt to carve gigantic stone heads.

The Olmec used the region's many rivers as highways for trade, but eventually, the inland peoples seized control of the trade. One of these groups built the first planned city in the Americas. It became known as **Teotihuacán** (TAY•oh•TEE•wuh•KAHN), or "Place of the Gods." The city reached its height around A.D. 400. It had a population of between 120,000 to 200,000 people.



▲ The Pyramid of the Sun is located in the Mesoamerican city of Teotihuacán. At over 200 feet tall, this pyramid is the tallest in present-day Mexico.

▼ This pyramid was in the Mayan city of Tikal, which was located in present-day Guatemala. **What caused the downfall of the Mayan civilization?**



Who Were the Maya? As Teotihuacán's power spread, a people called the **Maya** (MY•uh) built a civilization in the steamy rain forests of the Yucatán Peninsula (yoo•kuh•TAN). They, too, traded throughout Mesoamerica. The Maya used their central location to reach into what is now southern Mexico and Central America. Mayan traders in seagoing canoes paddled along the coast, perhaps reaching as far as the present-day United States. You will read about the Maya in Section 2.

The Moche South of Mesoamerica, a civilization developed on the west coast of South America. The **Moche** (MOH•chey) people lived in the dry coastal desert where Peru is today.

The Moche civilization lasted from about A.D. 100 to A.D. 700. They dug canals that

carried water from rivers in the Andes to their desert homeland. Because of this irrigation, the Moche suffered no shortage of food. They ate corn, squash, beans, and peanuts. They also hunted llamas and guinea pigs and fished in the Pacific Ocean. Llamas also served as pack animals and provided wool for weaving.

This surplus of food freed the Moche to do other things. Moche engineers built huge pyramids, and Moche traders exchanged goods with people as far away as the Amazon River valley. These goods included pottery, cloth, and jewelry.

For all their achievements, the Moche never expanded much beyond their homeland. They were eventually replaced by a civilization called the Inca.

Reading Check Describe What was America's first civilization? Where did it develop?

Section 1 Review

History Online

Study Central Need help understanding the rise of civilization in the Americas? Visit ca.hss.glencoe.com and click on Study Central.

Reading Summary

Review the Main Ideas

- The first Americans were most likely hunter-gatherers who came from Asia across a land bridge. The first civilization appeared in Mesoamerica when people learned to farm.
- A number of civilizations developed in the Americas, including the Olmec and Maya in Central America and Mexico, and the Moche in South America. All were dependent on farming.

What Did You Learn?

- Why was Mesoamerica's geography ideal for farming?
- How did the first Americans develop corn?

Critical Thinking

3. Summarizing Information

Draw a chart like the one below. Add details about the early peoples of Mesoamerica and South America. **CA 6RC2.4**

Mesoamerica
South America

- Summarize** How did the first people come to the Americas, and how did they live once they were here? **CA 6RC2.0**

- The Big Ideas** How did geography shape Moche civilization? **CA CS3.**

- Expository Writing** Write a short essay comparing the civilizations that developed in Mesoamerica and South America. **CA 6WS1.3**

- Reading Taking Notes** Review Section 1 and take notes. Create an outline of the section from your notes. Use this outline to review the section. **CA 6RC2.4**

Section

2

The Mayan People

Guide to Reading

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

In Section 1, you read about the rise of the Maya. They had to use whatever natural resources the land had to offer in order to survive and prosper. As a result, they developed a culture suited to where they lived.

Focusing on the **Main Ideas**

- The Maya created a civilization of city-states and thrived in Mesoamerica's rain forest. (page 318)
- The Maya developed a society of city-states and a culture based on their religion. (page 320)

Locating Places

Petén (peh•TEHN)

Meeting People

Jasaw Chan K'awiil I (KAH•WEEL)

Content Vocabulary

sinkhole (SIHNGK•HOHL)

alliance (uh•LY•uhns)

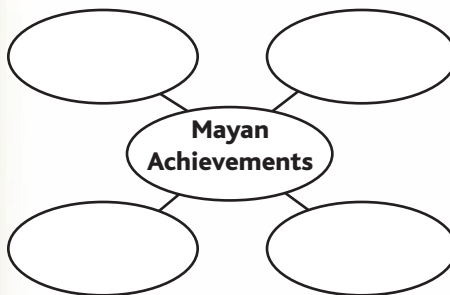
Academic Vocabulary

access (AK•SEHS)

predict (prih•DIHKT)

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information Use a web diagram like the one below to record Mayan achievements.



History Social Science Standards

WH.7.7 Students compare and contrast the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the Meso-American and Andean civilizations.



Where & When?



A.D. 400

c. A.D. 500
Mayan civilization reaches its peak

A.D. 700

c. A.D. 682
Jasaw Chan K'awiil I begins to rule Tikal

A.D. 1000

c. A.D. 950
Mayan cities abandoned



WH.7.1 Study the locations, landforms, and climates of Mexico, Central America, and South America and their effects on Mayan, Aztec, and Incan economies, trade, and development of urban societies.

The Mayan People

Main Idea The Maya created a civilization of city-states and thrived in Mesoamerica's rain forest.

Reading Connection What would it be like to live in a jungle? Read to learn how the Maya adapted to life in the jungles of Mesoamerica.

In A.D. 1839 an American lawyer named John Lloyd Stevens and an English artist named Frederick Catherwood slashed their way into the tangled Yucatán rain forest. There they found the vine-covered ruins of an ancient city.

Stevens and Catherwood learned that the people who had built the city were called the Maya. The Maya are the ancestors of millions of Native Americans who still live in present-day Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Belize.

At first glance, it looked like the Maya had settled in one of the worst spots on Earth. They picked the **Petén** (peh•TEHN), the Mayan word for “flat region.” Located

in present-day Guatemala, the Petén's dense forests nearly blocked out the sun.

The Maya saw what others missed. Swamps and sinkholes gave them access to a year-round source of water. The **sinkholes** (SIHNGK•HOHLZ)—areas where the earth has collapsed—connected the Maya with a huge system of underground rivers and streams.

Even with a ready water supply, only an organized culture could have succeeded in building cities and fields in the Petén. The effort required cooperation among many people, which could only be accomplished by having an organized government.

The Maya set up city-states. In each city-state, kings such as **Jasaw Chan K'awiil I** (KAH•WEEEL) of the city-state of Tikal supplied the leadership. They led the armies and organized great building projects. Leadership passed from one king to the next, and the city-states often fought with each other.

Reading Check Identify What was the main advantage of living in a tropical rain forest?

The City of Tikal

▼ The city of Tikal was one of the largest and oldest Mayan cities. Huge temples and monuments were spread throughout the city. The area which you see here was the main religious center of the city. **What Mayan leader built Tikal?**

- 1 Temple of the Masks (Temple II)
- 2 North Acropolis
- 3 Temple of the Giant Jaguar (Temple I)
- 4 Stelae
- 5 Great Plaza
- 6 Ball Court





WH7.7.2 Study the roles of people in each society, including class structures, family life, warfare, religious beliefs and practices, and slavery.

WH7.7.4 Describe the artistic and oral traditions and architecture in the three civilizations.

JASAW CHAN K'AWIIL I

Ruled A.D. 682–734

When Jasaw Chan K'awiil I began his rule in A.D. 682, the Mayan city-state of Tikal was weak and struggling. Its temples and other buildings were falling into disrepair, and the people were dominated by their great rival city, Calakmul.

Things began to improve in A.D. 695 when Jasaw defeated the armies of Calakmul in battle. Jasaw held a celebration a month later to honor the gods and himself. Tikal began to prosper again, and Jasaw spent the next 40 years rebuilding and strengthening his city-state.

Although Jasaw had been victorious, he spent only part of his time expanding his control over the region. Instead, most of his efforts went toward helping his people and restarting building projects in Tikal.

Jasaw's efforts teach us a great deal about Mayan art, architecture, and customs. For example, he built the famous pyramid in Tikal. The huge structure was 154 feet (47 m) in height, and served as both a temple and as Jasaw's tomb. In the room at the top of the structure, carvings depicted Jasaw's victories and mythological scenes. Jasaw wears clothing similar to the ancient leaders of Tikal to show that he was as great as they were. Other images were carved on bones and on other buildings. They show events from Mayan mythology and history praising Tikal's rulers.

One piece of art was of great importance: the effigy, or image of the god that armies carried into battle. This god was supposed to be the special god of that city. When Jasaw defeated Calakmul, he captured the image of their city's god. The people of Tikal thought this meant that the god of Tikal was more powerful than the others. Jasaw ordered the story of this great accomplishment to be carved on his pyramid so everyone would remember what he had done.

Jasaw began to rebuild Tikal during his reign, but most of the great building projects and military expansion of the city occurred under the reign of his son.



▲ This Mayan monument depicts Jasaw Chan K'awiil I.

Then and Now

The Maya emphasized religion and the accomplishments of their rulers in their art and architecture. What do people use as subjects for art today? Why?



WH7.7.2 Study the roles of people in each society, including class structures, family life, warfare, religious beliefs and practices, and slavery. **WH7.7.5** Describe the Meso-American achievements in astronomy and mathematics, including the development of the calendar and the Meso-American knowledge of seasonal changes to the civilizations' agricultural systems.

The Way It Was

Sports & Contests

Mayan Ball Game Mayan cities had many ball courts. In a Mayan ball game, teams of two or three players tried to drive a hard rubber ball through a decorated stone ring. Players wore helmets, gloves, and knee and hip guards made of animal hide to protect themselves against the hard rubber balls. They were not allowed to use their hands or feet to throw or bat the ball. They had to use their hips to drive the ball through the stone rings.

Scholars think that a Mayan ball game was more than a sport or contest. It had a religious and symbolic meaning—as well as deadly results. Crowds rewarded the winners as heroes and gave them gifts. However, the losing team was sacrificed to the gods in a ceremony after the game.



▲ Mayan ballplayer

Connecting to the Past

1. How did a player score in a Mayan ball game?
2. Why was losing especially painful for a team?

Mayan Culture

Main Idea The Maya developed a society of city-states and a culture based on their religion.

Reading Connection Did you ever wonder why people need calendars? Read to learn how the Maya developed calendars and math to help them farm.

The rulers of Mayan city-states said they were descended from the sun. They claimed to rule as god-kings and expected people to build huge monuments to honor them. A good example of this is the pyramid built for Jasaw Chan K'awiil I at Tikal.

Life in Mayan Cities As god-kings, Mayan rulers taught their subjects how to please the gods. One way was human sacrifice. When the Maya marched into battle, they wanted captives more than they wanted land. During times of drought, Mayan priests sacrificed captives to Chac, the god of rain and sunlight. The Maya typically only sacrificed captives from the ruling group of a conquered society. Most captives were kept enslaved and put to work.

The Maya believed that the gods controlled everything. As a result, religion was at the core of Mayan life. A huge pyramid with a temple at the top towered over every city. Priests, who claimed to know what the gods wanted, set up a strict class system in which everyone had a place.

Royal Mayan women played an important role in their society. They often married into royal families in other Mayan city-states. This helped form **alliances** (uh • LY • uhns • uhs).

History online

Web Activity Visit ca.hss.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 6—Student Web Activity** to learn more about the Americas.

Alliances are political agreements between people or states to work together. In some city-states, such as Calakmul, women occasionally served as all-powerful queens.

Mayan Science and Writing Both queens and kings turned to Mayan priests for advice. The priests thought gods revealed their plans through movements of the sun, moon, and stars, so they studied the sky closely.

The Maya also needed to know when to plant their crops. By watching the sky, the priests learned about astronomy and developed a 365-day calendar. They used it to **predict** eclipses and to schedule religious festivals, plantings, and harvests. To chart the passage of time, the Maya also developed a system of mathematics.

The Maya also invented a written language. Like the Egyptians, the Maya used a type of hieroglyphics. Symbols represented sounds, words, or ideas. Only nobles could

read them, however. After the Mayan civilization collapsed, nobody could read Mayan hieroglyphics. Only recently have scholars learned how to read them.

What Happened to the Maya? The Mayan civilization reached its peak in the A.D. 500s. Over the next 300 years, the different Mayan city-states began to collapse. No one is sure why this happened. Some experts say overpopulation drained the cities of food and resources. Others blame a long drought, or period without rain. Still others say that in city after city the poor people rebelled against their rich rulers. Whatever the reason, the Maya began abandoning their cities, and by the A.D. 900s, the cities lay deserted.

Reading Check Explain How did the Maya treat enslaved people?

Section 2 Review

Reading Summary

Review the Main Ideas

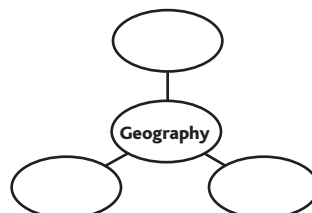
- In the rain forests of Central America, the Maya developed a civilization. They used natural resources, such as sinkholes, and established governments based on city-states.
- The Mayan city-states developed a culture based on their religious beliefs. They made advances in mathematics and science, including a sophisticated calendar.

What Did You Learn?

1. In what country were Mayan ruins first found?
2. What was the relationship between government and religion in Mayan society?

Critical Thinking

3. **Organizing Information**
Draw a diagram like the one below describing the geography of the region in which the Maya lived. **CA 6RC2.4**



4. **The Big Ideas** How did astronomy and mathematics help Mayan society? **CA HI2.**
5. **Writing a Journal** Imagine you are an archaeologist who has found lost Mayan ruins. Write a journal entry describing your discovery. **CA 6WS1.1**
6. **Analyze** Why do you think only nobles could read the Mayan language?
7. **Analysis Understanding Beliefs** Write an essay explaining how the Maya tried to please their gods. What did the Maya hope to receive in return? **CA HI2.**

History online

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Analyzing Primary Sources



WH7.7.2 Study the roles of people in each society, including class structures, family life, warfare, religious beliefs and practices, and slavery.

Life From Death

Both the Maya and the people of Teotihuacán believed in a life after death. Both groups of people also decorated their temples and tombs with important images that they wanted future generations of their people to see.

Study the images on pages 322 and 323, and answer the questions that follow.



▲ Statue of Mayan god

Reader's Dictionary

guans (GWAHNZ): large birds that resemble turkeys

The Rain God's Heaven

The people of Teotihuacán believed that people went to heaven after they died. The following song explains some of these beliefs.

.

Thus they said:

"When we die,

truly we die not,

because we will live, we will rise,

we will continue living, we will awaken.

This will make us happy."

Thus the dead one was directed,
when he died:

"Awaken, already the sky is rosy,
already sing the flame-colored **guans**,
the fire-colored swallows,
already the butterflies fly."

.



▲ This wall painting in Teotihuacán shows the heaven of the rain god Tlaloc.

—Michael D. Coe and Rex Koontz,
Mexico: From the Olmecs to the Aztecs

Welcoming a New King

This Mayan painting comes from a Mayan tomb. It shows a procession of musicians playing various instruments and people celebrating the choosing of the heir to the throne.



Mayan Warfare

This image of Mayan warriors in a battle comes from the same tomb that has the painting of the procession. The man wearing the jaguar suit standing over the fallen enemy is the king.



DBQ Document-Based Questions

The Rain God's Heaven

1. What does the song tell you about the beliefs of the people of Teotihuacán.
2. What does the image show you about the place people go to after they die?

Welcoming a New King

3. What kinds of instruments do you think the musicians are playing?
4. Why do you think someone would place this image in a tomb?

Mayan Warfare

5. What kinds of weapons do the warriors have?
6. How can you tell who the winner is?

Read to Write

7. Compare the images from Teotihuacán and the Mayan tombs. How are they different? What is the goal of the images on the Mayan tombs compared to the Teotihuacán image? Why do you think the Mayan rulers preferred such images? **CA HR4.; HR5.**

Chapter 6 Assessment

Standard WH7.1

Review Content Vocabulary

Match the definitions in the second column to the terms in the first column. Then write a sentence for each of the words. Use information from the text to help you properly use the words.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1. glacier | a. areas of collapsed earth |
| 2. sinkhole | b. an agreement between people or groups |
| 3. alliance | c. large sheets of ice |

Review the Main Ideas

Section 1 • The First Americans

- When did the first people arrive in the Americas? On which continent did they live originally?
- How did farming lead to the rise and development of civilizations in present-day Mexico, Central America, and Peru?
- What were some of the goods traded by the Olmec people?

Section 2 • The Mayan People

- Where did the Maya build their civilization?
- How did the Maya honor their kings?
- What role did royal Mayan women play in society?

Critical Thinking

- Analyze** How did the Mayan people make use of the geography of their region?
CA CS3.
- Predict** How might ancient America have been different if the Ice Age had not ended when it did?
CA HI2.
- Explain** What were some of the possible outcomes of playing the Mayan ball game?
CA 6RC2.0
- Describe** What was the role of Mayan priests in government? How did these priests use the stars and sky?
CA 6RC2.3

Geography Skills

Study the map below and answer the following questions.

- Place** Look at a map of modern-day Central America. What countries occupy the former area of the Maya? **CA CS3.**
- Location** About how far is Teotihuacán from the Olmec civilization? **CA CS3.**
- Movement** Which civilization do you think would be better suited for trade? Why? **CA CS3.**



Read to Write

- The Big Ideas Persuasive Writing** Historians are not sure why the Mayan civilization declined. Select one of the theories described on page 321 and do research to find support for that theory. Write an essay persuading others that your theory is correct. **CA 6WA2.5**

18. **Using Your FOLDABLES** Create an outline map of Mesoamerica on poster board. It should be big enough for the entire class to work together. Label each country and the location of each civilization using information from the chapter. Then use your foldables to write facts about each civilization on the map. **CA 6RC2.4 CA CS3.**

Using Academic Vocabulary

Match each word below with the definition that best fits it.

- ___ 19. expose
- ___ 20. estimate
- ___ 21. access
- ___ 22. predict
 - a. to guess about what might happen in the future
 - b. to uncover something or put it on display
 - c. to judge the approximate size or quantity of something
 - d. the ability to make use of something

Linking Past and Present

23. **Making Connections** The people of ancient American civilizations built many different types of monuments to honor their gods and their leaders. What kind of monuments do we use in the United States today? Who do we honor with these monuments? How are these monuments similar to those of the ancient Americans? How are they different? Write a short essay explaining the role of monuments in our world today. **CA 6RC2.2**

Reviewing Skills

24. **Reading Skill Taking Notes** Use your local library to find a book with information on the history of the Moche people. Read the information, taking notes as you go. Use these notes to write a summary of the Moche civilization and its important events and people. **CA 6WA2.3**

25. **Analysis Skill Understanding Chance**

The discovery of an ancient Mayan city in the Yucatán rain forest led to new information and understanding of the Maya. Use your local library and the Internet to research the impact of the discovery. What new things did the world learn about the Maya? How did the chance discovery change the way historians view ancient American civilizations? Write a newspaper article that explains the significance of this discovery. **CA HI4.; HI5.**



Standards Practice

Use the map below to answer the following question.

- 26 Which area of the map is known as Mesoamerica?






- A J
- B K
- C L
- D M

Unit 2 Review

Making Comparisons

Compare the civilizations that you have read about by reviewing the information below. Can you see how the people of these civilizations helped to build the world we live in today?



	Early India <i>Chapter 4</i>	Early China <i>Chapter 5</i>	Ancient Americas <i>Chapter 6</i>
Where did these civilizations develop?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Indus River valley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Huang He valley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central America South America
Who were some important people in these civilizations?	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Siddhartha Gautama, c. 563–483 B.C. Chandragupta Maurya, ruled c. 321–298 B.C. Asoka, ruled c. 273–232 B.C. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wu Wang, ruled c. 1045–1043 B.C. Confucius, 551–479 B.C. Qin Shihuangdi, ruled 221–210 B.C. Liu Bang, ruled 202–195 B.C. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jasaw Chan K'awiil I ruled A.D. 682–734
Where did most of the people live?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many lived in farming villages and towns near major rivers Some lived in very large cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landowning aristocrats lived in large houses with gardens and courtyards Most people were farmers living in simple houses in villages or cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunter-gatherers Farming villages City-states (Teotihuacán and Tikal)

What were these people's beliefs?

Early India

Chapter 4

- Hinduism: complex religion with many deities representing an eternal spirit
- Buddhism: enlightenment available to anyone



Early China

Chapter 5

- Confucianism: duty directs your life
- Daoism: people should try to be in harmony with nature
- Legalism: people need harsh laws to be good
- Worship of ancestors

Ancient Americas

Chapter 6

- Belief in gods who controlled everything
- Practiced human sacrifice



What was their government like?

- The warrior class ran the government, usually ruled by a king

- A king or emperor ruled the country
- Aristocrats ran the provinces

- Powerful kings ruled city-states (Maya)

What was their language and writing like?

- Sanskrit: used characters to form letters and words

- Chinese: symbols that represent objects were combined to represent ideas

- Mayan language written in hieroglyphics

What contributions did they make?

- Made advances in medicine, mathematics, science, and literature
- Developed two major religions

- Invented paper and gunpowder
- Cultivated silk

- Developed trade networks and methods of farming and building

How do these contributions affect me? *Can you add any?*

- "0" is now a part of our number system
- Many people still practice Buddhism and Hinduism

- The papermaking process allows us to create books, newspapers, and other paper products
- Gunpowder and silk are still in use

- Developed crops, such as corn, beans, and squash, that we still use today