**Section VIII: Exploration and Conquest**

**Day 1: The Olmec’s, Mayans, and Aztecs**

S.W.B.A.T:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Key Vocabulary Terms:**

Paleo-Indians:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Olmec:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Maya:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Aztec:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The First Americans

America was inhabited long before European sailors discovered it. Most Archaeologists agree that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, somewhere between 38,000 – 10,000 B.C.

During this time period most of the world was covered in Ice. This Ice created a land bridge-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- Between Siberia and modern day Alaska. The First Americans were called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These people more than likely followed animal herds that they depended on for food across Beringia to their new home in North America.

These people were **Hunter Gatherers** who stalked whatever animals they could find with their stone-tipped weapons. These animals included \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which provided the Paleo Indians with food and clothing. They were Nomads- moving from place to place in search of food.

Around 10,000-5,000 B.C. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Land was no longer covered in ice, as the landscape began to take the shape that would later appear to the first European explorers.

As the temperature rose, the Paleo Indians began to move south. This migration took thousands of years and spread throughout the Americas. As time went on, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ each with their own language and culture.

The First Great Culture

The first great Mesoamerican culture was the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These people lived on the fertile coastal lowlands along the gulf of Mexico. The Olmec culture developed around 1200-400 B.C. One of their first settlements was San Lorenzo

In San Lorenzo, archaeologists discovered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of what is to believed to be their rulers, and a court yard where a sacred “ball game” was played and believed to be the forerunner of Soccer.

The Mayans

Among the peoples influenced by the Olmec’s were the Mayas. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Mayan city-states flourished from the Yucatán in southern Mexico through much of central America.

Towering pyramid temples dominated the largest Mayan city of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Priests climbed steep temple stairs to perform sacrifices on high platforms, while ordinary people watched from the plazas far below.

Each Mayan city \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He was also surrounded by nobles who served as military leaders and officials who managed public works, collected taxes, and enforced laws. Rulers were usually men, but women occasionally governed.

Most Mayas were farmers. They grew \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—the basic food crops of Middle America—as well as fruit trees, cotton, and brilliant tropical flowers.

Along with their magnificent buildings and carvings, the Mayas made impressive advances in learning. They developed a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which has only recently been deciphered.

Mayan priests needed to measure time accurately in order to hold ceremonies at the correct moment. As a result, many priests became expert mathematicians and astronomers. They developed an accurate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Mayan priests also invented a numbering system and understood the concept of zero.

About 900, the Mayas abandoned their cities and their civilization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. No one knows for sure why Mayan civilization declined. Possibly, frequent warfare forced the Mayas to abandon their traditional agricultural methods. Or overpopulation may have led to over-farming, which may have exhausted the soil. Still, parts of Mayan culture survived as millions of people in Guatemala and southern Mexico still speak Mayan languages.

The Aztecs

The Aztecs, who referred to themselves as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, were fierce warriors, who adopted the Toltec culture into their society. Their capital city \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (tay-nawch-teet-lahn), was built where present day Mexico city is, on an island in Lake Texcoco (tays-koh-koh)

Tenochtitlan grew into a massive city with hundreds of buildings, canal systems, and as many as 300,000 residents. During their peak the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Eventually in Aztec civilization a class system developed. Some members grew wealthy from gold, silver, and precious stones they demanded as tribute- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Ordinary citizens usually worked as farm laborers, porters, servants, and slaves in Aztec society. The Aztecs also \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They were a high militaristic culture that believed in dominating others.

Religiously the Aztecs worshipped \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (wee-tsee-loh-pohch-tlee) a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They believed that Huitzilopochtli had to battle the forces of darkness each night in order for a new day to dawn. The Aztec believed that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gave Huitzilopochtli the strength to fight the moon and the stars and therefore return the next day.

Because of this belief thousands of people were sacrificed in the name of this god. Usually those chosen were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.