

# Native American Civilizations

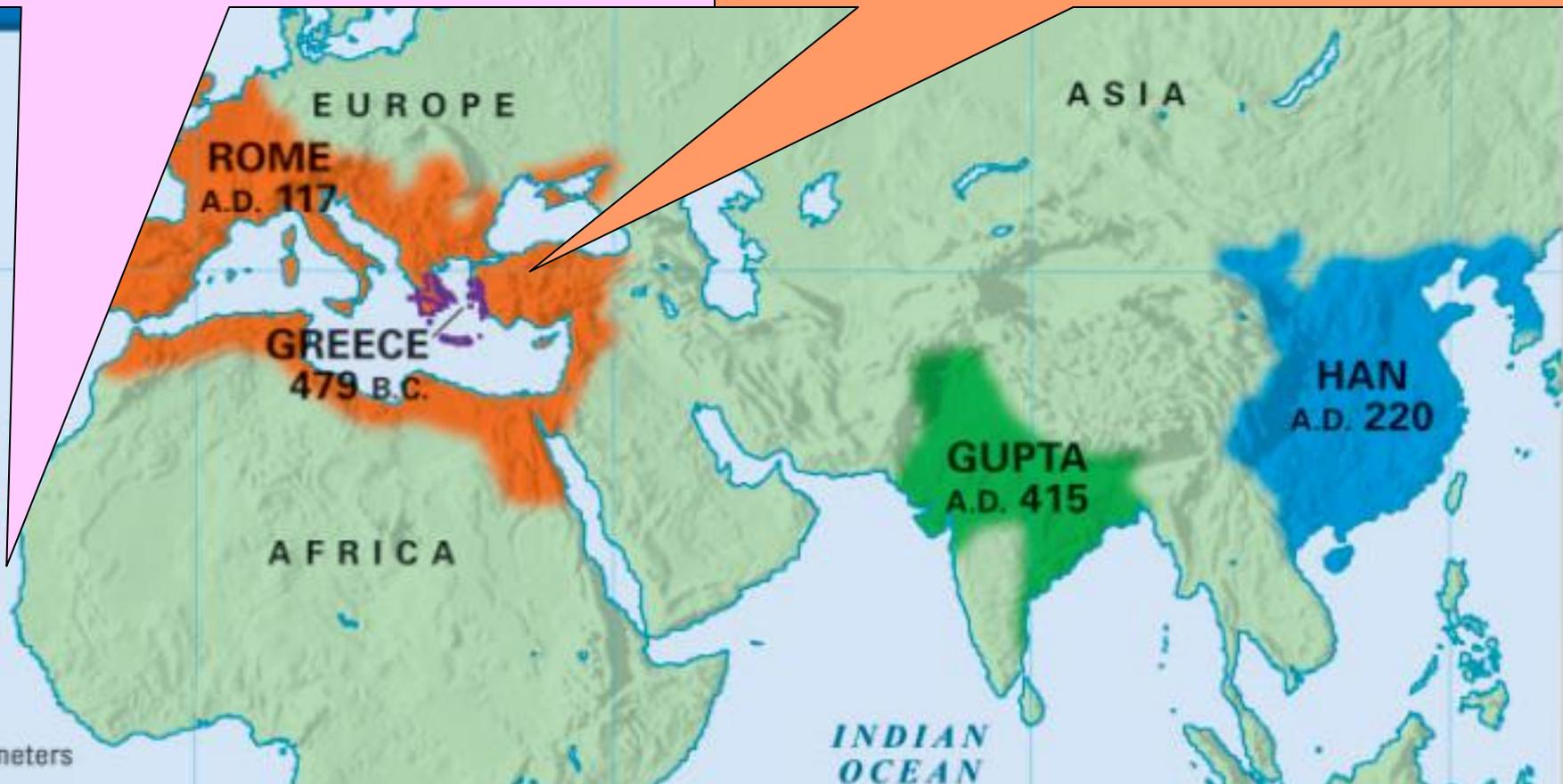


Mayan, Incan, &  
Aztec Civilizations

# The Civilizations of America

...advanced societies were developing in isolation in the Americas

While classical civilizations were developing in the Mediterranean & Asia...



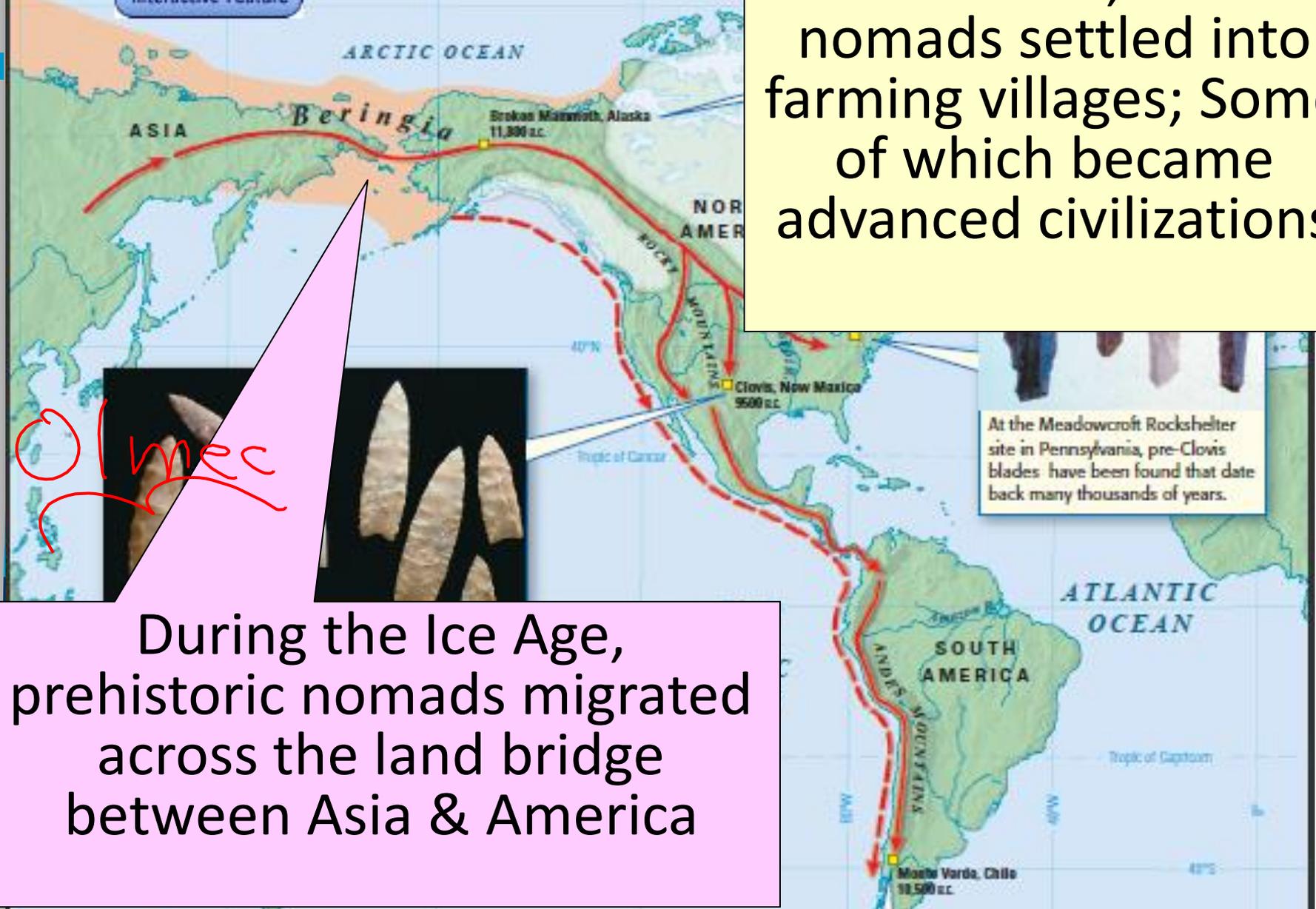


# Migration Routes, 40,000–10,000 B.C.

INTERACTIVE

Interactive Feature

During the Neolithic Revolution, these nomads settled into farming villages; Some of which became advanced civilizations



At the Meadowcroft Rockshelter site in Pennsylvania, pre-Clovis blades have been found that date back many thousands of years.

During the Ice Age, prehistoric nomads migrated across the land bridge between Asia & America



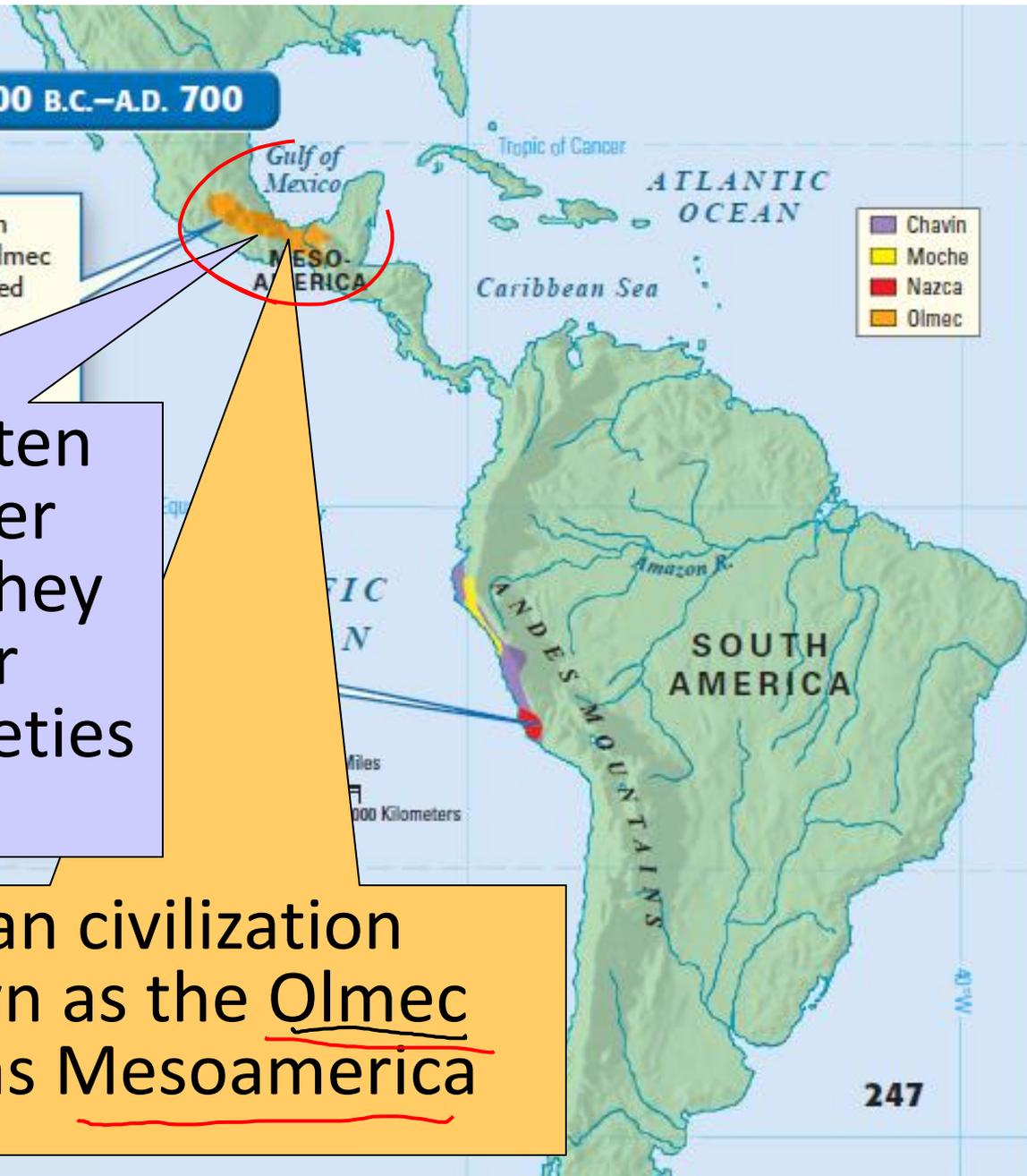
## Early Civilizations, 1200 B.C.–A.D. 700



The region in which the Olmec arose included lush forests. Numerous

The Olmecs are often called the “mother culture” because they influenced other Mesoamerican societies

The first American civilization were people known as the Olmec in an area known as Mesoamerica



The Olmecs developed a strong trade network in Mesoamerica that brought them great wealth

The Olmecs used their wealth to build large stone monuments & pyramids to honor their leaders & gods

Olmec trade allowed them to spread their culture to other Mesoamericans

For unknown reasons, the Olmec civilization declined by 400 B.C. but their cities & symbols influenced later cultures, especially the Mayans



ion, 900 B.C.

■ Olmec homeland  
■ Oaxaca Valley



Aztecs

Mayans

Incas



# Mayan Empire

- The Maya lived in present-day southern Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, & Honduras
- One of the most advanced civilizations in the world before the arrival of Europeans; Reached its highest development from about 300 to 900 A.D.



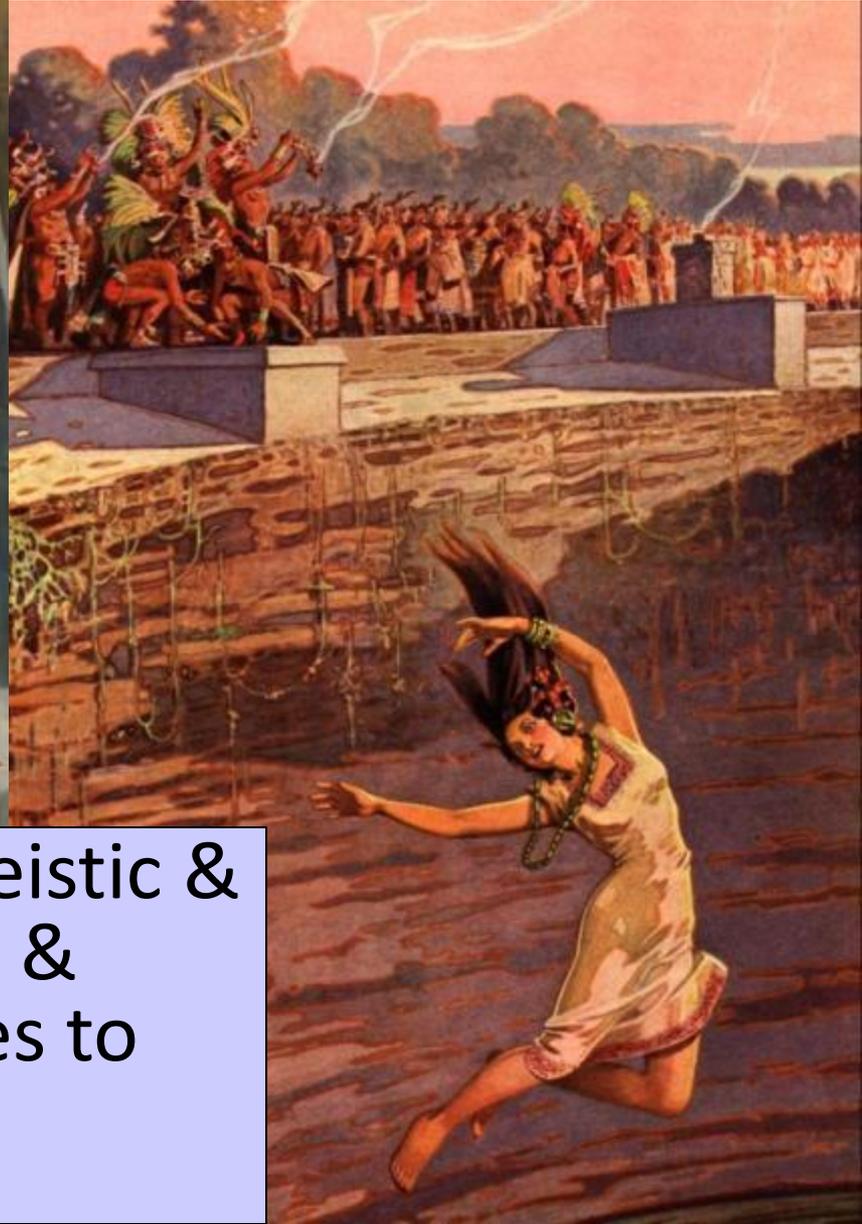
# Mayan Empire

- Mayans were polytheists who built large pyramids to honor gods—smaller than Egyptian & Kush pyramids but were much more detailed & decorative; contained arches (like the Romans!)

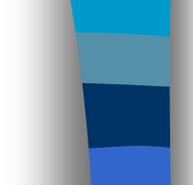




# The Mayans



Religion: Mayans were polytheistic & offered their blood, food, & sometimes human sacrifices to please the gods

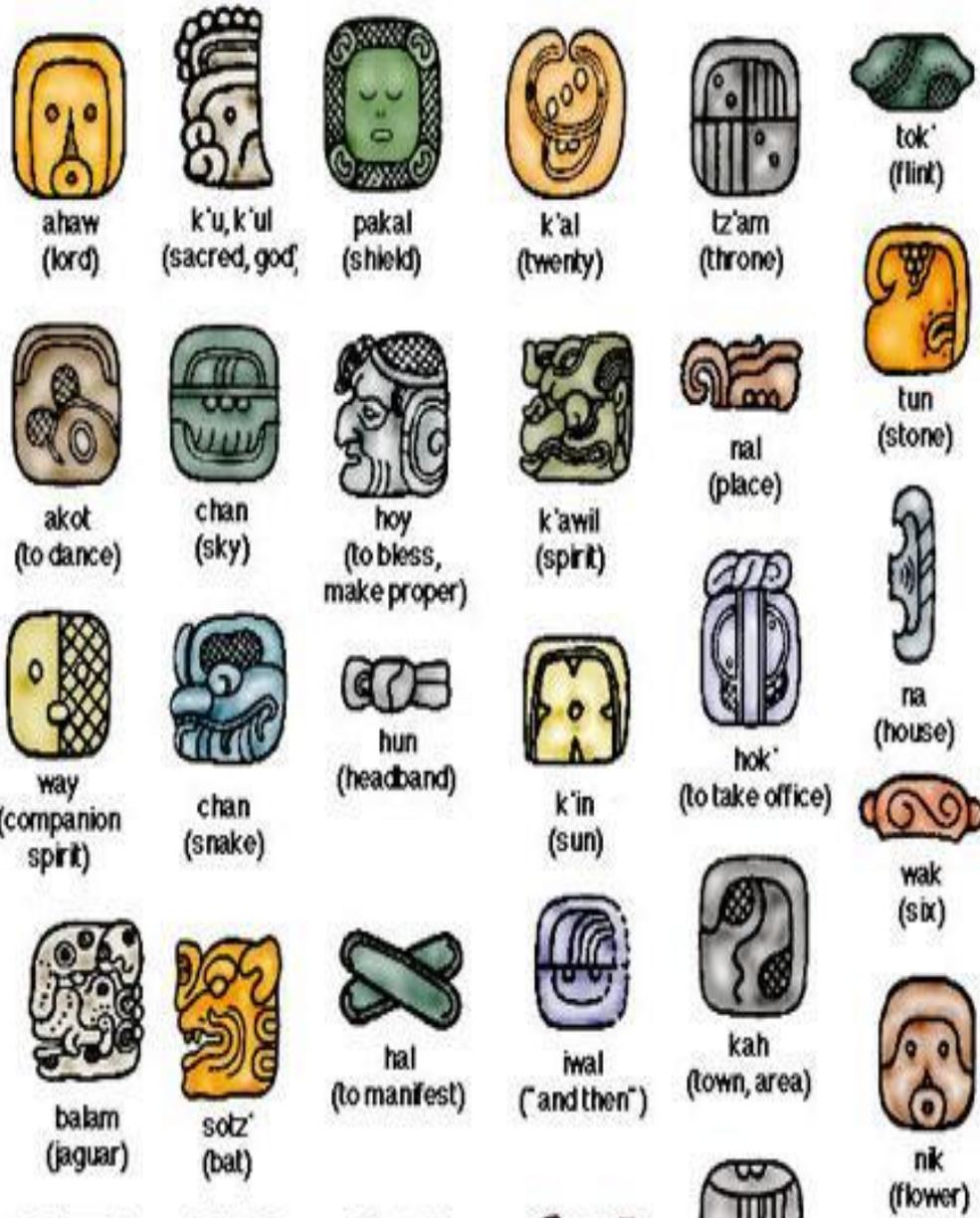


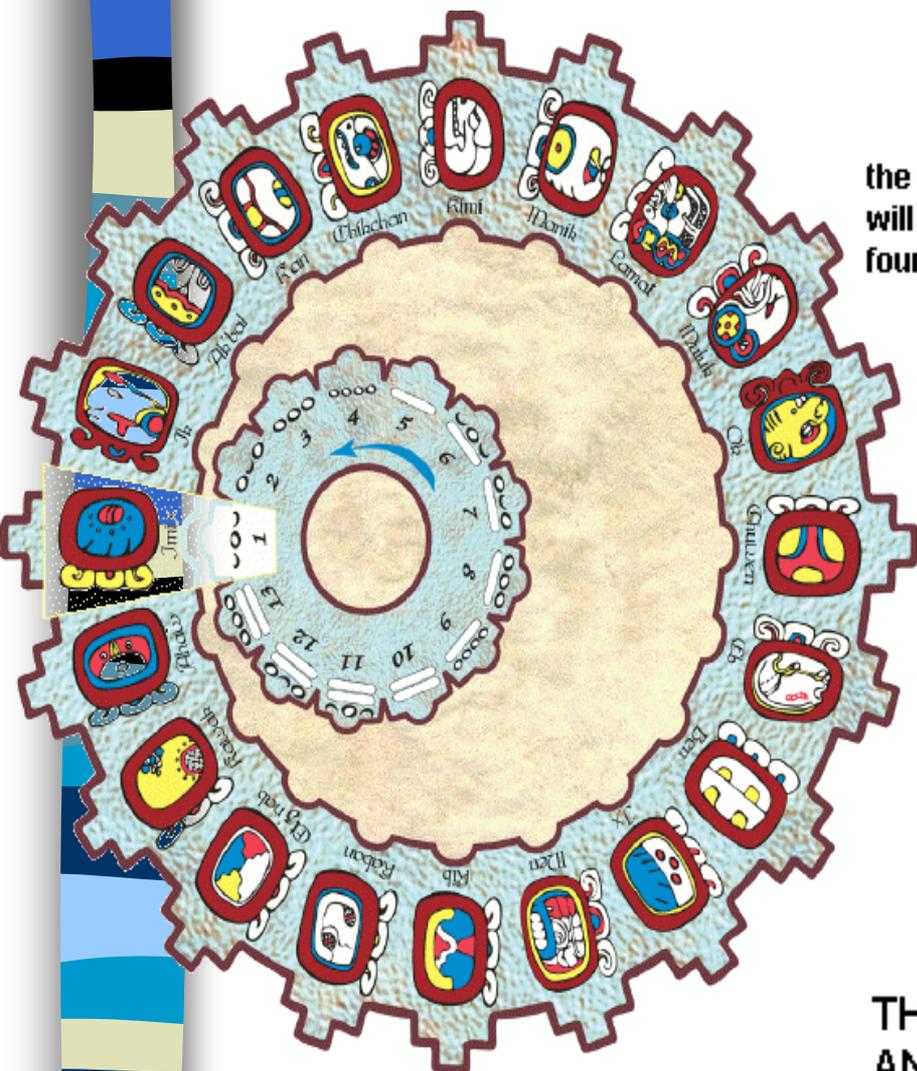
# Mayan Empire

- Accomplishments of the Mayans:
  - Developed system of mathematics & number system
  - Created accurate calendar with 365 days that could accurately predict eclipses & finding the day of the week many thousands of years in the past or future
  - Had exact knowledge of phases of the moon & cycle of Venus

# Mayan Empire

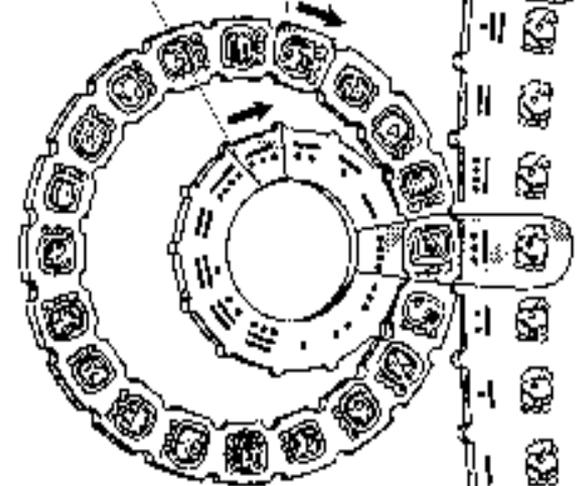
- Developed hieroglyphic-style writing to record astronomical observations, calendar calculations, & historical information





the number that will be in effect in four days

Kan, the day that will be in effect in four days



The twenty day signs and thirteen numbers of the Tzolkin

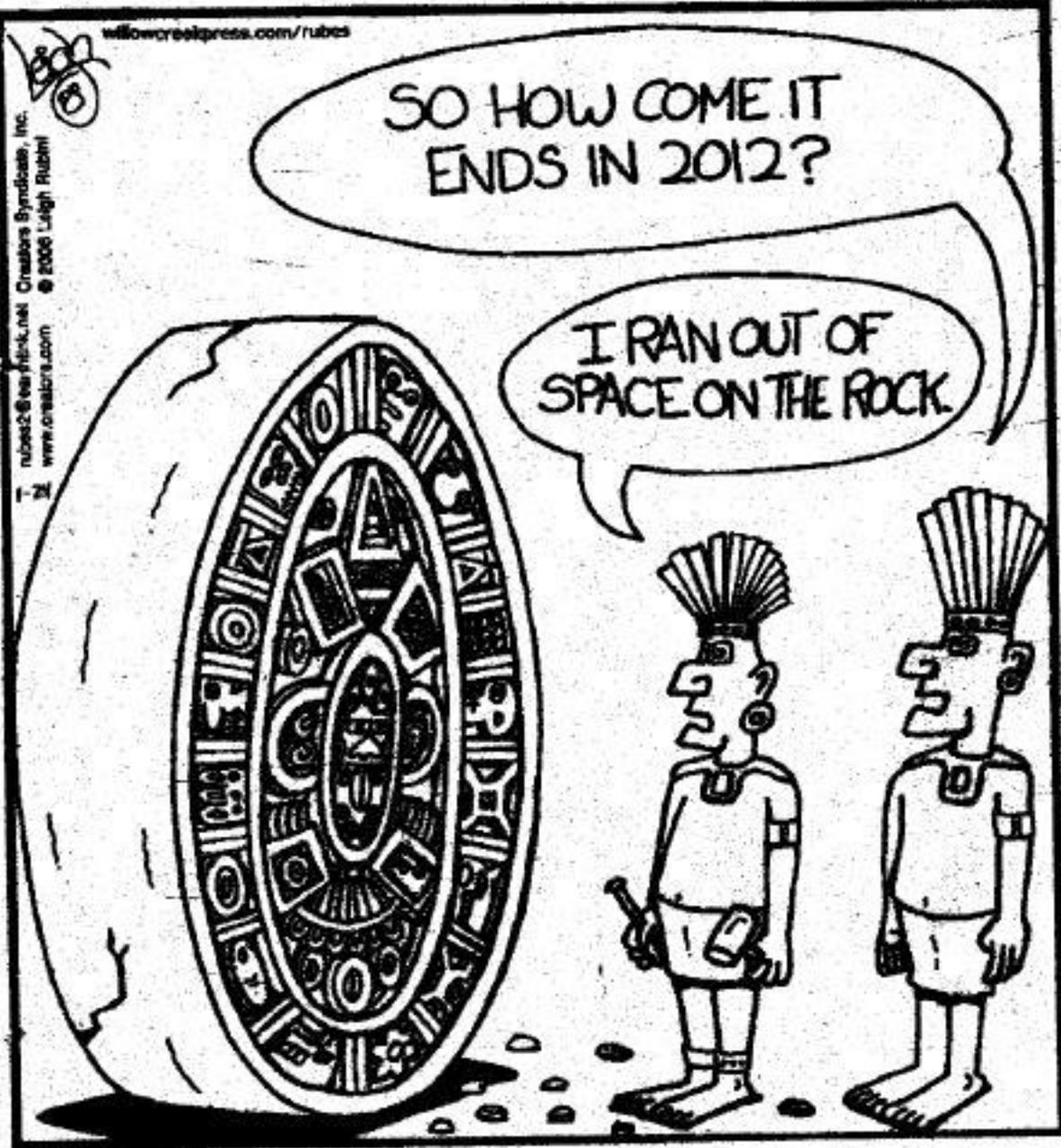
**THE CALENDAR ROUND AND HOW IT WORKED**  
(see National Geographic, December 1975)



The Haab date that will be in effect in four dates

The Calendar Round at the beginning of the 5th World and every 52 years: 4 Ahau 8 Cumku. The 6th World began July 11, 1991

THE HAAB, the 365-day Vague Year



**At last, the mystery of the Mayan calendar revealed.**

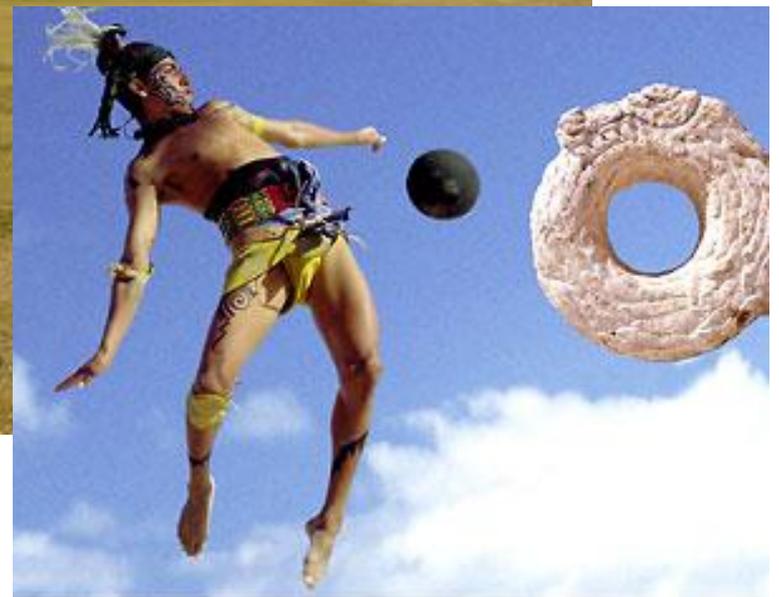


photo courtesy Riviera Maya





# Inca Empire

- The Inca built one of the largest & wealthiest empires in the world
- It began in the mid-1400s & was located on the western coast of South America



# Inca Empire

- Incan Empire extended more than 2,500 miles & included present-day Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, & Argentina—huge territory covered deserts, mountains, & rain forests
- Used terraced mountainsides & irrigation streams for farming



# Inca Empire

- Most famous city was Machu Picchu







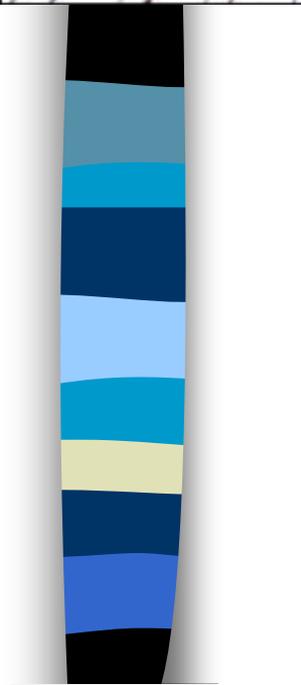
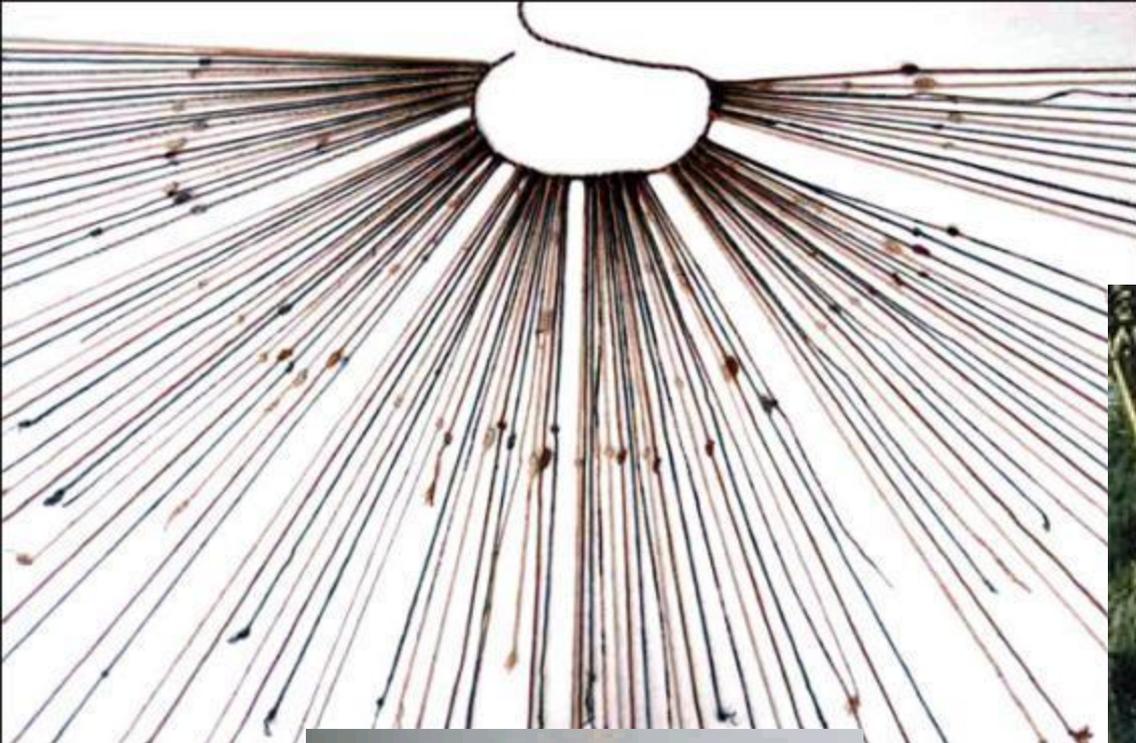
# Machu Picchu

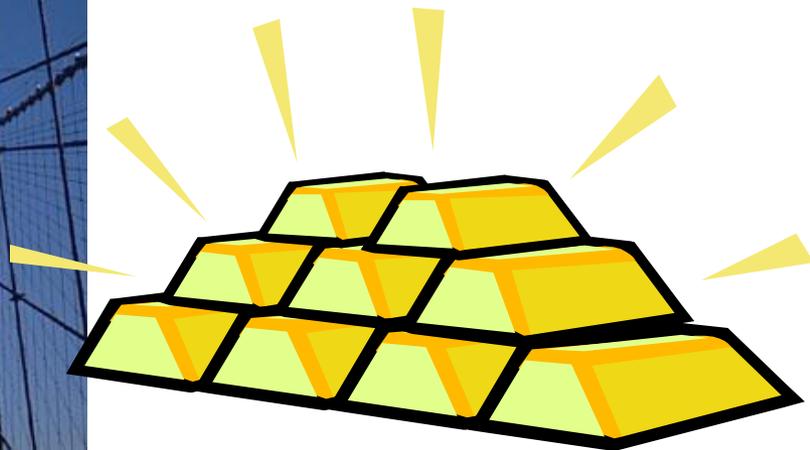
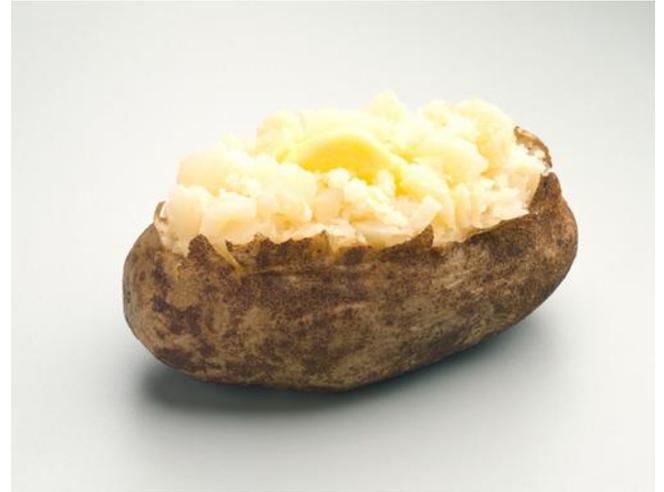
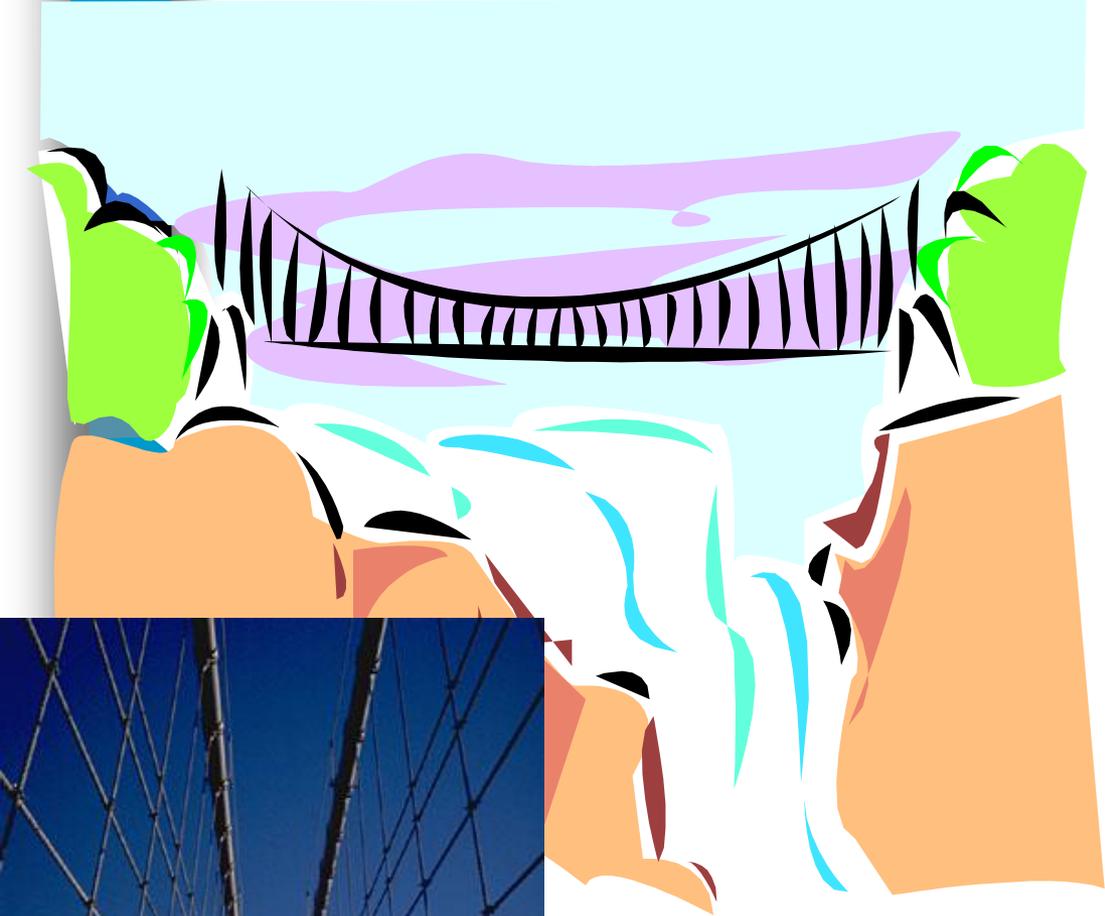


# Inca Empire

- Accomplishments of the Inca:
  - Had no writing, but created record system called quipu (knots tied to colored rope)
  - Built suspension bridges
  - Built 10,000 miles of roads
  - Excellent goldsmiths
  - 1<sup>st</sup> civilization to harvest potatoes









Mayans

Aztecs

Incas

# Aztec Empire

- The Aztec Empire began lasted from 1427 to 1521 (conquered by Spanish *conquistadors*)
- The capital, Tenochtitlán, was located on the present-day site of Mexico City





# Aztec Empire

- The Aztecs were founded by the Mexica, (came from west Mexico)
- Legend predicted the Mexicans would found a great civilization where they saw an eagle perched on a cactus growing out of a rock
- Aztec civilization was created on Lake Texcoco—strategic with abundant food supplies & waterways for transportation





Robert Frerck/Woodfin Camp and Associates, Inc.

When captured by Spanish *conquistadors*, Tenochtitlán was possibly the largest city in the world

# Aztec Empire

- Farming was the basis of the Aztec economy, but land was not large enough to produce enough food for the population; Aztecs created *chinampas* (floating gardens), by putting mud on huge mats made of woven reeds & placed them in lake—farmed on soil on these “farms”



# Aztec Empire

- Aztecs were excellent warriors who expanded their empire by conquering their neighbors
- Aztecs were the “people of the sun” who honored many gods, especially sun god; used human sacrifices to keep the gods happy—victim’s heart was removed & priest ate flesh as sign of respect





sacrificamos los lenguajes  
 y oculos y las anjras y con cada uno  
 y a bellos y algunos otros y los  
 como boca y otros y pintados  
 como otros y ba paces a



- 
- Create a **Venn Diagram**, Compare the Aztecs to the Mongols.
  - How are they similar, how are they different?
  - Think about geography, religion, government, and social structure: make sure to include each in your diagrams.

■ ISN pg 70, Bingo Review; Create 4x4 Bingo board with any of these words

■ **Iconoclasts**, Patriarch, **Hagia Sophia**, Ottoman Turks, **Caliph**, Hajj, **Polytheistic**, Algebra, **Grand Canal**, Magnetic Compass, **Genghis Khan**, Steppe, **Ming**, Sung, **Isolation**, Shinto, **Daimyo**, Matrilineal, **Axum**, Mali, **Salt**, Savannah, **Aztecs**, Olmecs, **Calendar**, Human Sacrifice, **Justinian's Code**