

Mesoamerica

Outcome: The Earliest Americans

The Earliest Americans

1. North and South America

- a. Stretches unbroken _____ miles
- b. Originally connected to Asia by a _____ called _____
- c. Most inhabitants (or ancestors) _____ this way
- d. Others traveled by _____

2. Peopling of America

- a. Started arriving after the _____ (1.9 million – 10,000 B.C.)
- b. Ice Age _____ sea levels (hence Beringia) and allowed wild _____ from Siberia to migrate to the Americas
- c. People followed the herds and became first _____ (_____ and _____)
- d. Some say earliest humans found in North or South America date back to _____ B.C. or _____ B.C.
- e. Evidence? _____ found in New Mexico date back to _____ B.C.
- f. 12,000-10,000 years ago the Ice Age _____ - Ice melted and Beringia was _____
- g. Agriculture began about _____ B.C.
- h. With agriculture came _____

3. Mesoamerica

- a. _____
 - i. Located in the jungles of _____ around 1200 B.C.
 - ii. Often called Mesoamerica's "_____"
 - iii. Large _____ discovered in 1860 (p.244)
 - iv. Built _____, altars, & colossal _____
 - v. Olmec thrived from _____ -- _____ B.C.
 - vi. Believed to have worshipped variety of nature gods including the _____
 - vii. Collapse: _____. Possibilities include decline by _____ or possibly that the Olmec began destruction of their monuments when their leaders died

b. Zapotec

- i. Developed around time of declining Olmec in _____ Valley
- ii. Oaxaca Valley has fertile soil, mild climate, and enough _____ to support _____
- iii. By 500 B.C. they had created early forms of _____ and a _____ system
- iv. First real urban center in Mesoamerica: _____, which at its peak had _____ people
 - Paved stones
 - Towering Pyramids, temples, palaces
- v. Decline of Zapotec is also a _____

c. Olmec and Zapotec Legacy

- i. Influence powerful _____
- ii. Olmec left notions of planned _____ centers & some glyph writing
- iii. Zapotec leave _____ & calendar system
- iv. Zapotec are America's first _____

4. Other

- a. _____, _____, and _____ build centers in South America
- b. Nazca lines (p.248)