



■ Essential Question:

–What led to the rise & fall of the Olmec, Mayan, Aztec, & Inca Empires in America?

■ Warm-Up Question:

–Read the “Big Picture” for the Unit 5 Organizer & be ready to answer some questions

# The Civilizations of America

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

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



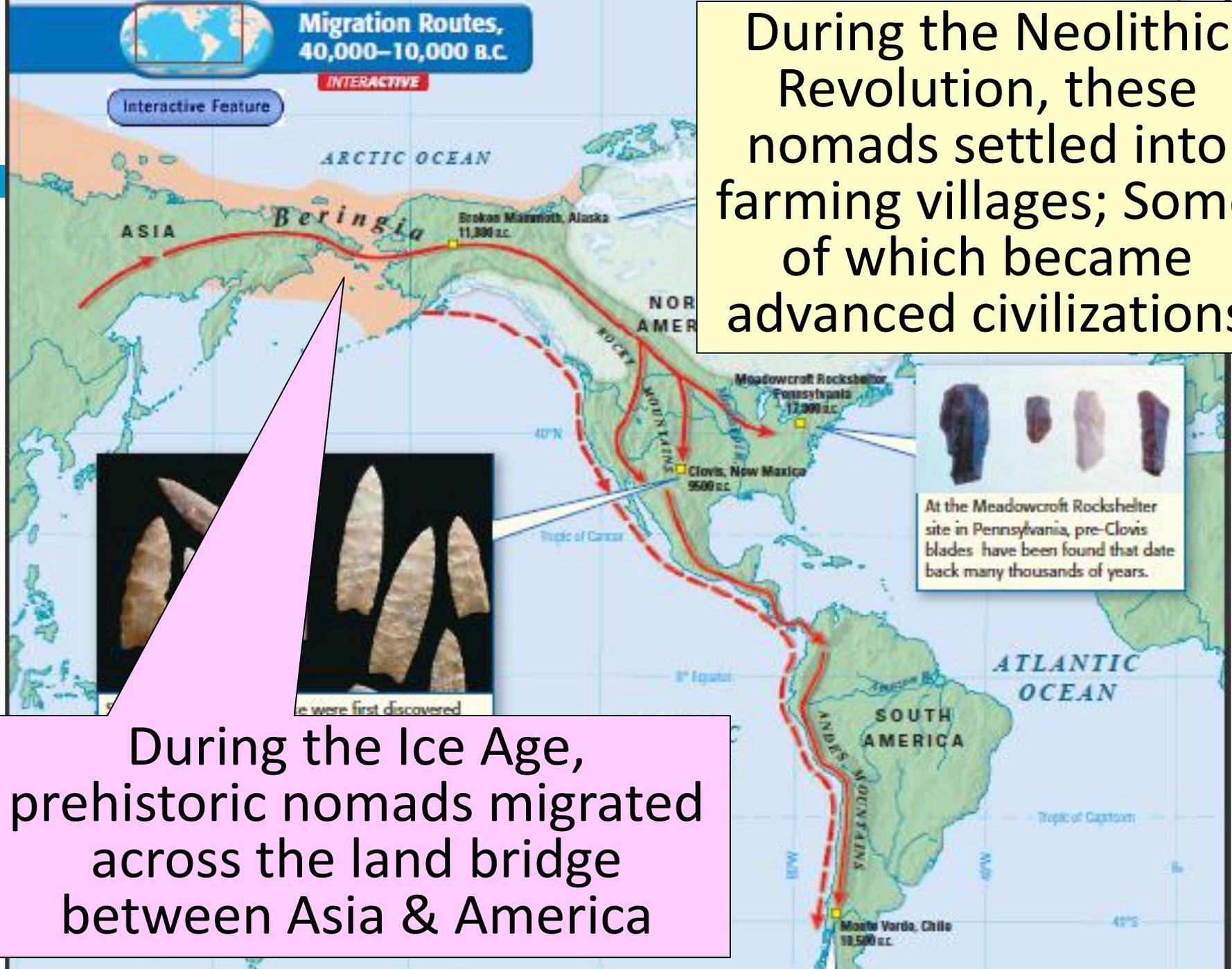


# Migration Routes, 40,000–10,000 B.C.

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

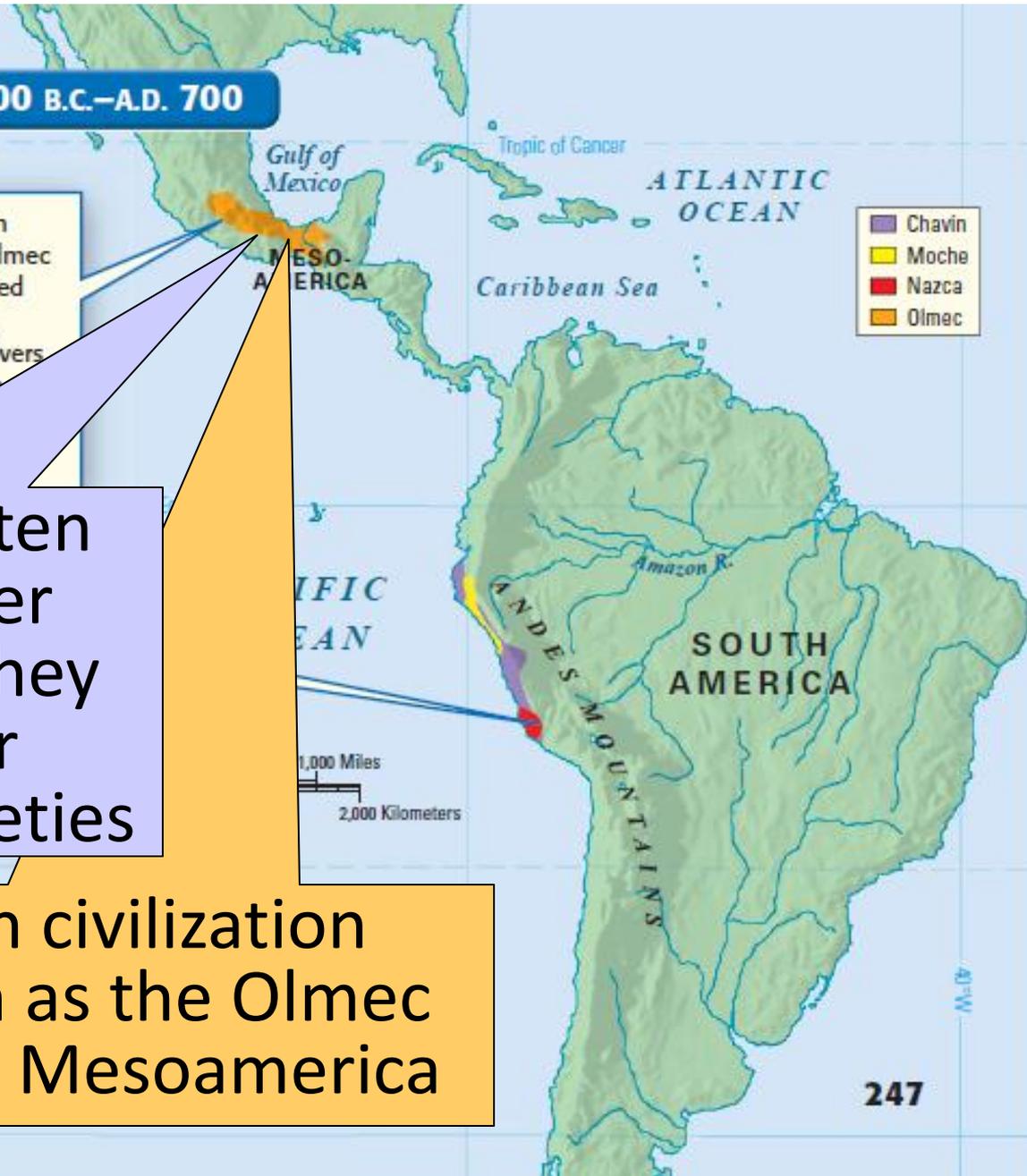
## Early Civilizations, 1200 B.C.–A.D. 700



The region in which the Olmec arose included lush forests. Numerous rivers in the region provided fertile soil for farming.

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

Government: Mayans were divided into individual city-states ruled by king-gods

Economy:

The Mayan economy was based on trade & farming maize, beans



250-900 A.D.

2 900 A.D. Crop failures and internal conflict lead to decline of Maya civilization.

1 400-562 A.D. Tikal is the largest Maya city and center of trade.

During this time, Maya civilization flourished. Cities became centers of culture, and a

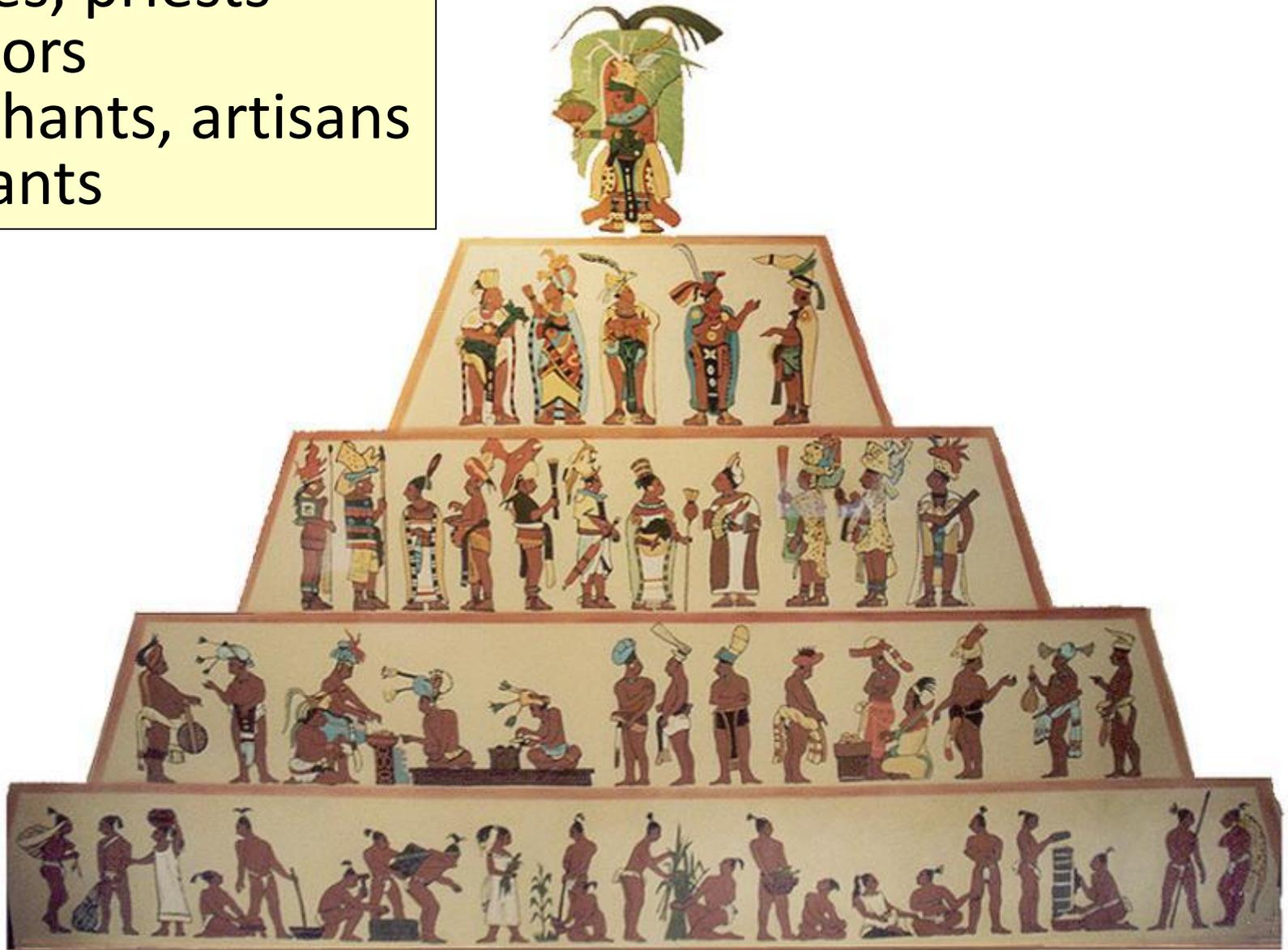
Middle American Civilizations

- Maya
- Teotihuacan
- Zapotec
- Trade route
- Pyramid site

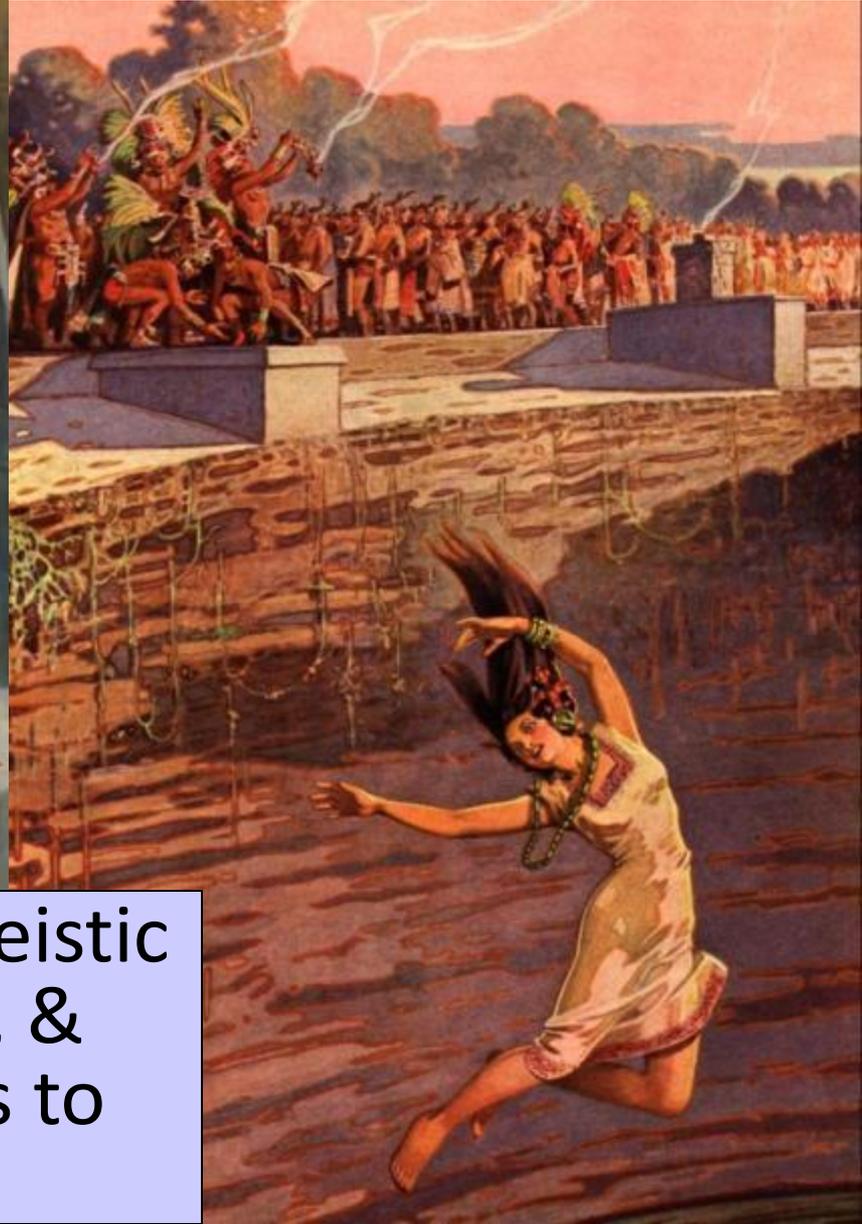
## Society:

- (1) Kings (dynasties)
- (2) Nobles, priests
- (3) warriors
- (4) Merchants, artisans
- (5) Peasants

# The Mayans



# The Mayans



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

Technology: Mayans invented a writing based on pictures called glyphs, an accurate 365-day calendar, & advanced temples



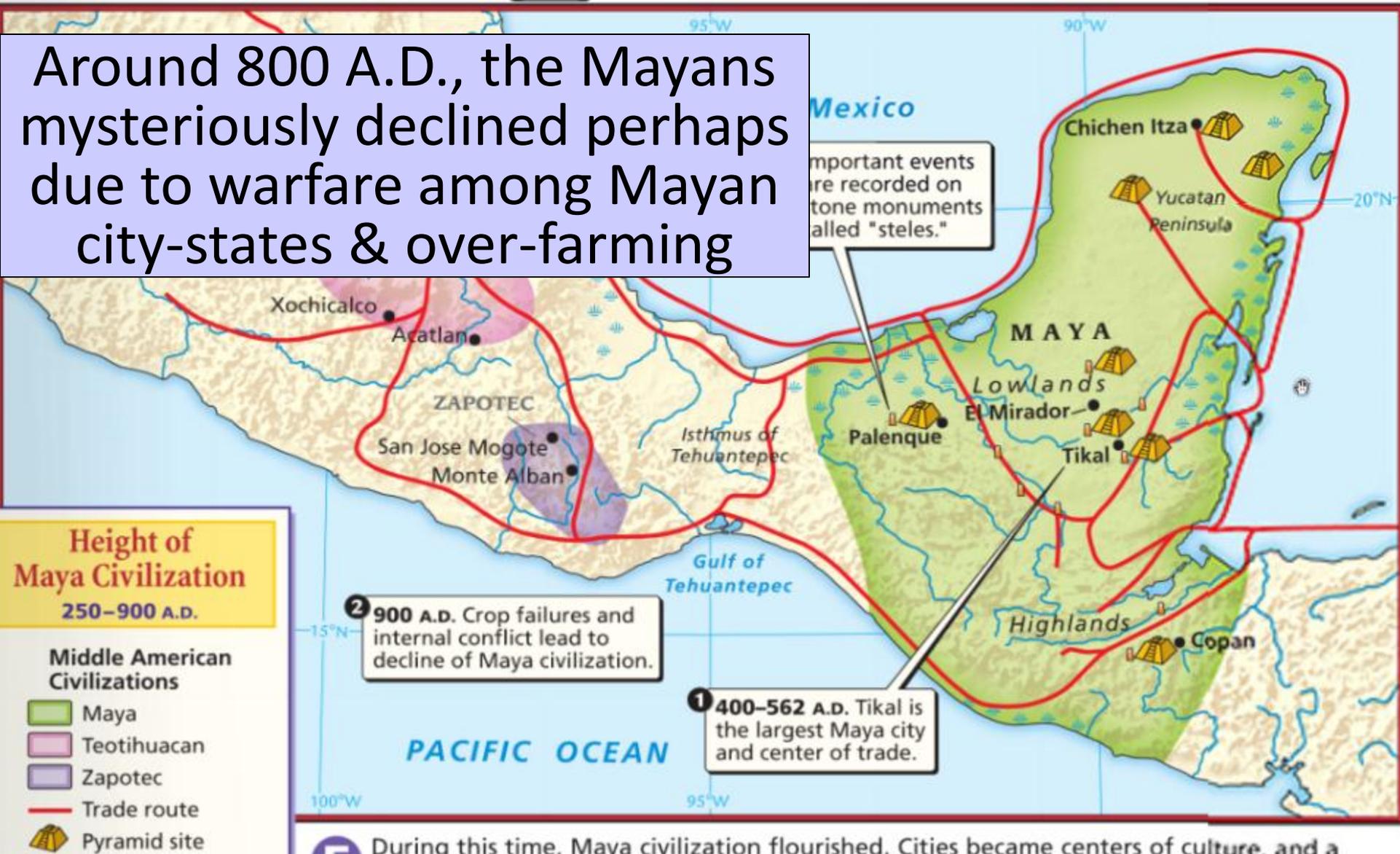
Haab date  
will be in  
ct in four  
es

Calendar Round  
e beginning of  
5th World and  
y 52 years: 4  
u 8 Cumku. The  
World began July  
1991

E HAAB, the  
5-day Vague  
ar

# The Mayans

Around 800 A.D., the Mayans mysteriously declined perhaps due to warfare among Mayan city-states & over-farming



During this time, Maya civilization flourished. Cities became centers of culture, and a

NORTH AMERICA

Pueblo Bonito  
Chaco Canyon  
Cahokia  
Great Moun

MESOAMERICA

Tenochtitlán

After the decline of the Mayans, the Aztecs were developing in present-day Mexico

Around 1200, Aztecs arrived in Mexico & built their city Tenochtitlan in 1325

PACIFIC OCEAN

30°N

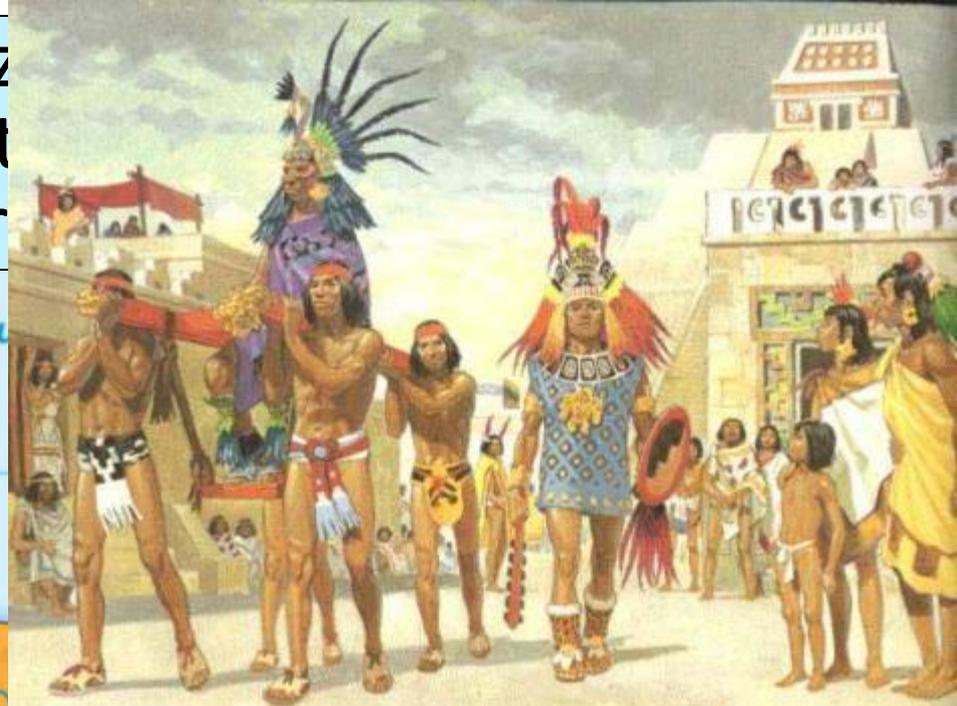
0° Equator



# Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan

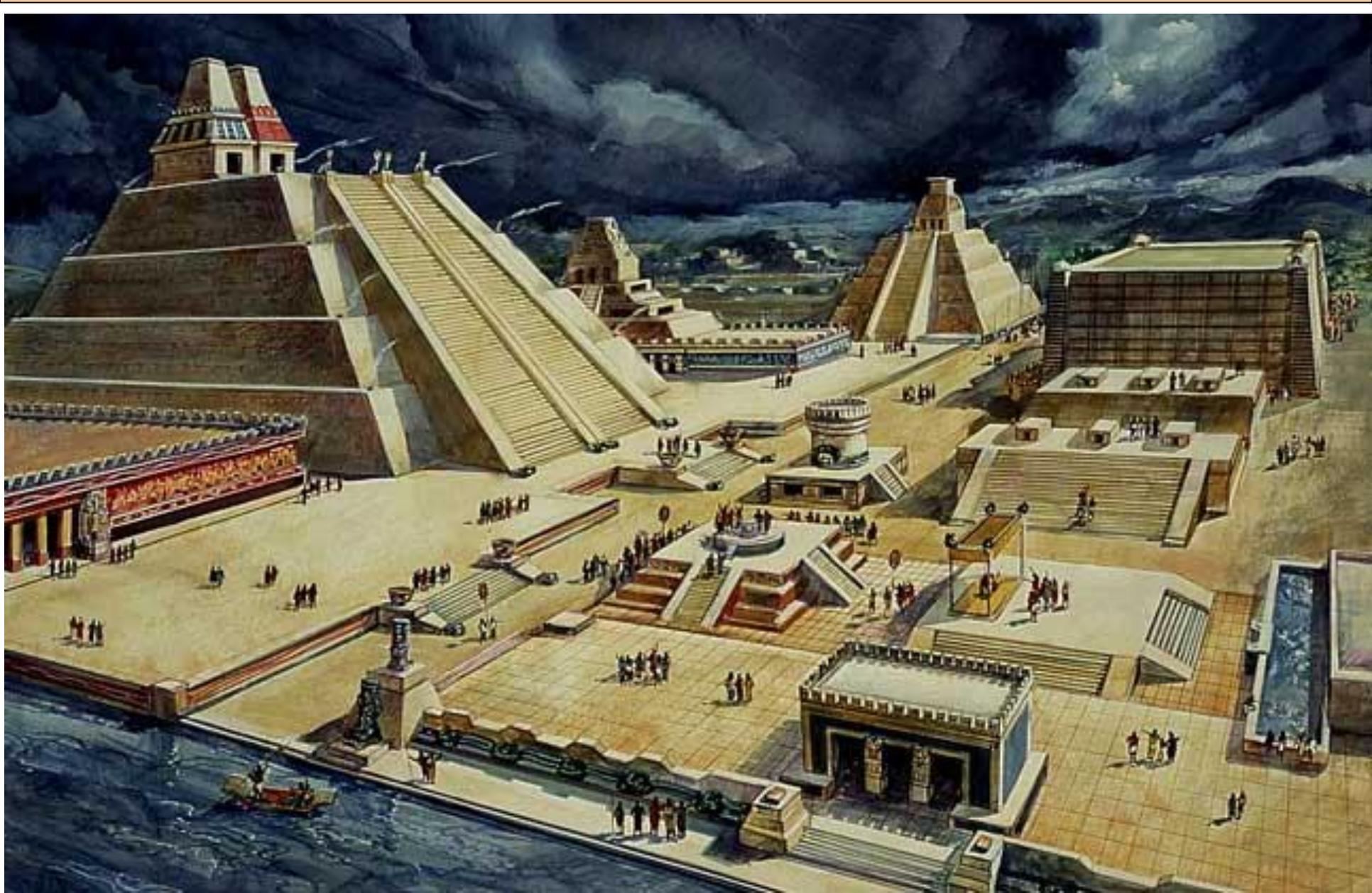


Government: The Aztec empire, controlled it & received tribute from



Religion  
mar  
go  
hu  
orbis

Technology: Like the Mayans, the Aztecs developed an accurate calendar & built advanced temples



# The

But, the true demise of the Aztecs came when the Spanish discovered America & conquered the Aztecs



Around 1500 A.D., the Aztecs began to decline; A century of brutal rule over the provinces & millions of human sacrifices led to revolts

While the Aztecs ruled Mexico, the Incas began to dominate the area of the Andes Mountains of South America

Many Incan cities like Machu Picchu & Cuzco were built in the mountains



Lambert Azimuthal Projection



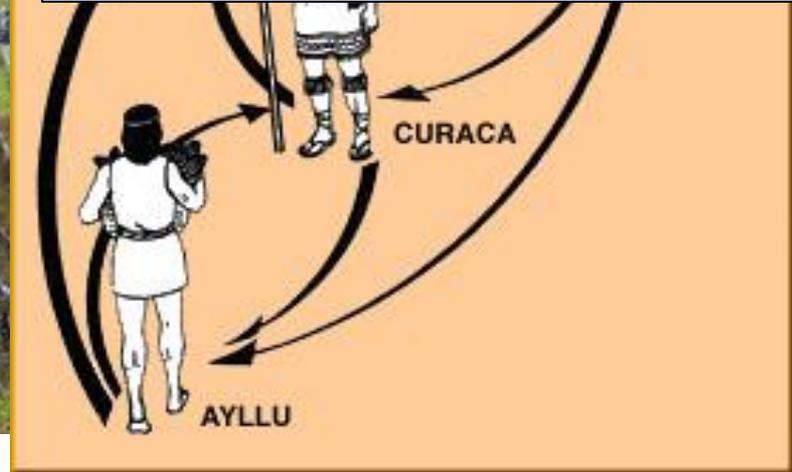
30°S

120°W

100°W

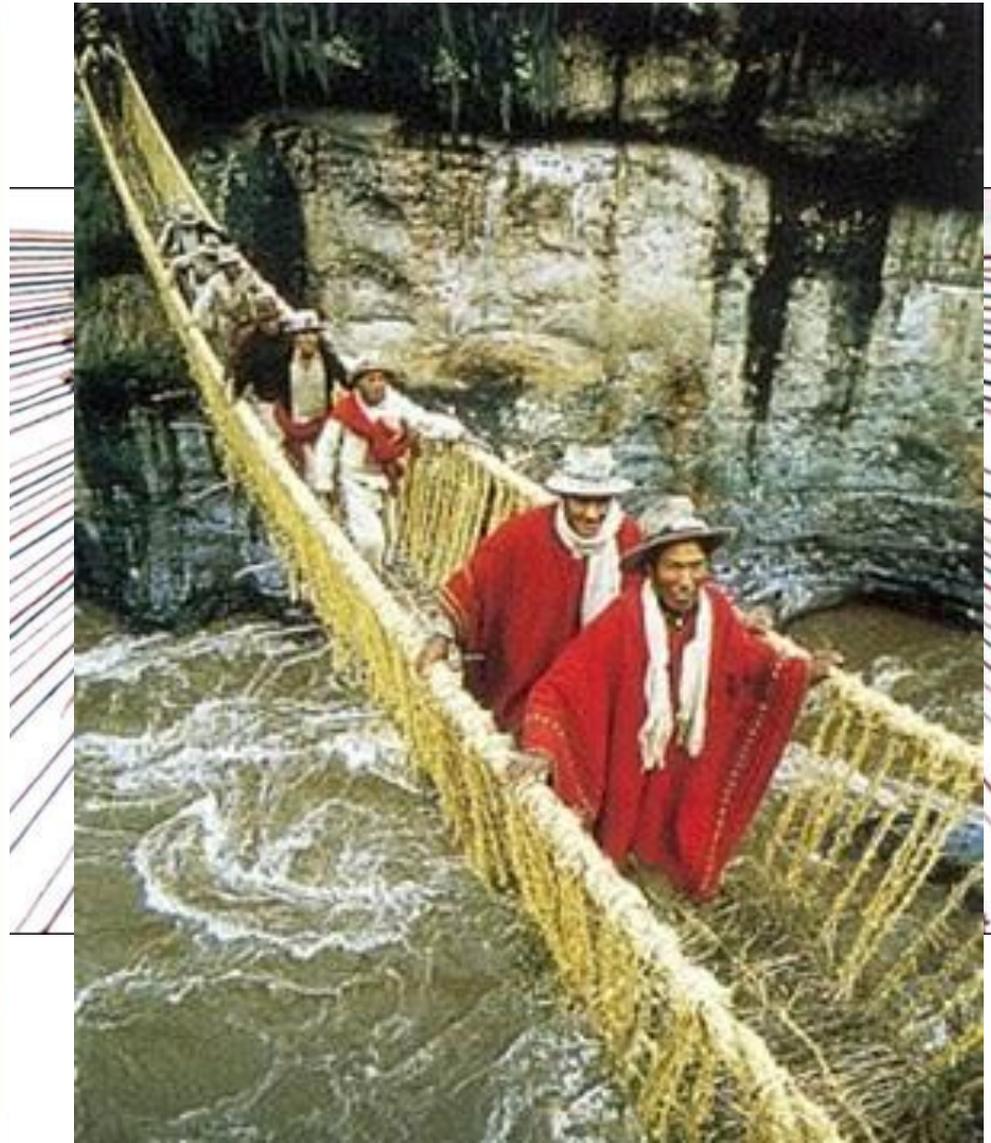


Religion:  
The Inca were polytheistic & offered llamas & food (but not humans) to the gods



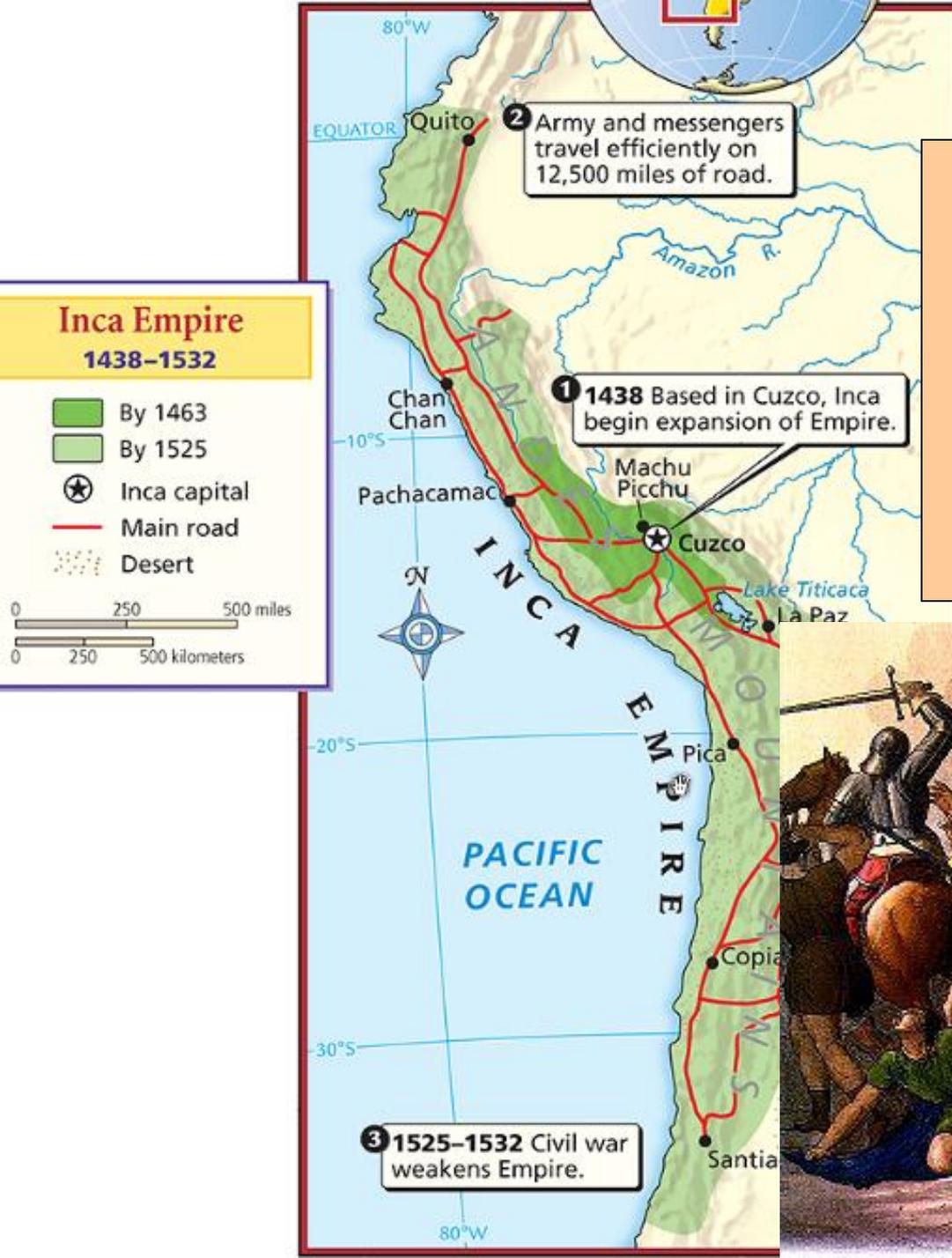
Economy: The Incan  
Society: (1) King  
(2) Nobility  
(3) Ayllu (commoners)  
good of the empire

**Technology:** Inca innovations included quipu, a means of record keeping involving knotted ropes as well as an extensive system of roads & suspension bridges



# The Incas

In the 1520s, a civil war divided & weakened the Incan Empire; Ten years later Spanish conquistadors conquered the empire



## Closure Activity: Which American Society?

- Can you distinguish among the early societies of America?
  - Examine the descriptions on the back of your notes
  - Place the number of each descriptor into one or more parts of the chart
  - Be prepared to share your answers

<b>Olmec</b>	<b>Mayan</b>	<b>Aztec</b>	<b>Inca</b>