

EARLY AMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS

Definition

A “Civilization” is a highly developed society.

Major Early American Civilizations

- The Maya
- The Aztec
- The Inca

The Maya

- Around from the year A.D. 300 to A.D. 1100
- Built stone monuments and pyramids

Mayan Temple



The Maya

- Tikal was the largest Mayan city
- Priests held great power and ruled in a Theocracy (society ruled by religious leaders).

Tikal from the air



The Maya

- Had no wheeled vehicles or horses
- Developed hieroglyphics
- We don't know why their civilization fell apart

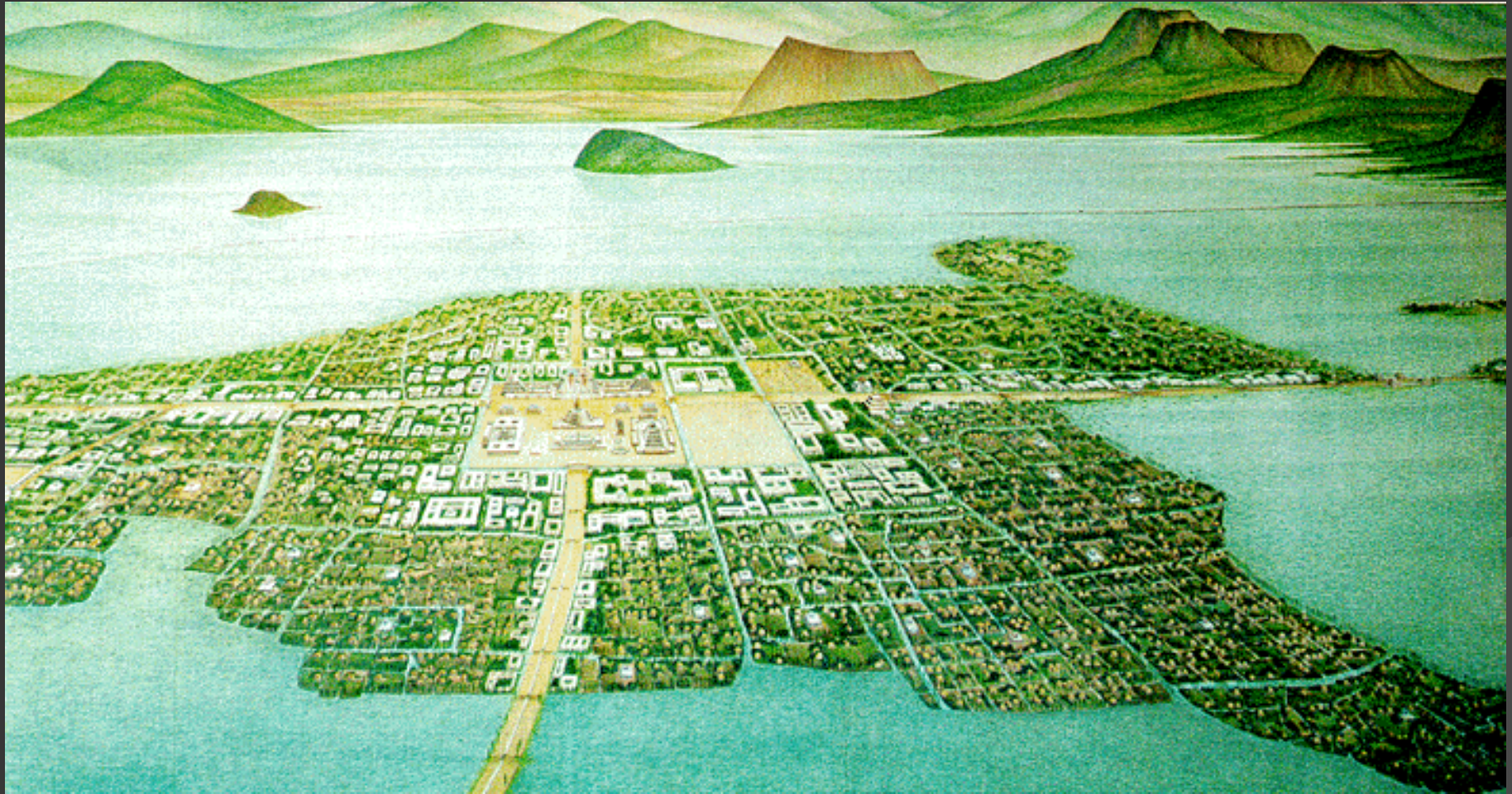
Mayan Hieroglyphics



The Aztec

- Founded their capital city Tenochtitlan in 1325
- Tenochtitlan is now Mexico City
- Tenochtitlan was built on an island in the middle of a lake

Tenochtitlan



The Aztec

- Aztec warriors conquered central and southern Mexico
- The people they conquered were forced to be slaves
- Society was organized around religion, which was based on human sacrifice

Aztec Warriors



Aztec War Club



The Inca

- The largest of the three empires
- Capital city of Cuzco
- Population of more than nine million people

The Inca

- Built 10,000 miles of stone roads and rope bridges.
- A system of foot runners carried messages across the empire

The Inca

- No written language, but they did use a system of record keeping using strings and knots
- Cut terraces (broad platforms) into mountain slopes to plant crops

The Inca

- Believed that their emperor was a descendant of the sun god and built special cities devoted to religious ceremonies

Last Inca Emperor



Atahualpa

Machu Picchu



Machu Picchu



The Inca

- Around from A.D. 1200 to 1532
- All men between 25 and 50 years old could be drafted into the army for 5 years.

Incan War Club

