|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tribe** | **Date** | **Location** | **Achievements** |
| **Olmec**  **Called the “Mother culture” –influences other Mesoamerican tribes** | **1200BCE**  **400BCE** | **Mesoamerica**  **Southern jungles of Mexico** | **No written records have been found.**  **Polytheistic –jaguar –half god and half jaguar statues found**  **Large sculpture heads 44 tons To honor leaders? Priests? Gods?**  **No cities but ceremonial centers** |
| **Maya** | **300-900** | **Yucatan peninsula**  **Southern Mexico ,much of Central America** | **Studied astronomy**  **365 day calendar (December 21,2012)**  **Writing system –hieroglyphics**  **Polytheistic –pyramids built to honor the gods**  **Not one empire but many city-states**  **Slash and burn agriculture** |
| **Aztec**  **Greatest empire of Mesoamerica** | **1400-1521** | **Tenochtitlan**  **(Mexico City)** | **Planned city palaces, markets, canals, temples, apartment buildings**  ***Chinampas*—floating gardens used to produce food for the expanding population**  **Based its power on military victories and tribute (tax) (goods) gained from the conquered people**  **Polytheistic –built pyramids to honor the gods –most important was the sun god**  **Human sacrifices** |
| **Inca**  **Almost as large as the Roman Empire** | **1200-**  **1535** | **Andes Mountains**  **Peru** | **Terrace farming used for farming potatoes, peanuts, tomato and other crops**  **Use of llama**  **Medicine (performed early brain surgery)**  **14,000 miles of roads, including suspension bridges, and tunnels. Used by the military, and government only**  **No written records but did use *quipu*. knots for counting.** |