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| **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.** |