## 1 World History I

HIST 1210

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#### <sup>2</sup> Mesoamerica: Olmec heritage

- · Olmec influences on neighboring and later cultures
  - Mounds and pyramids
  - Shamanism
  - Bloodletting, human sacrifice
  - Rule by priest-kings
  - Cities built around temples and plazas
  - Monumental commemorative art.

#### **3** Mesoamerican cultural characteristics:

#### Food

- Agriculture
  - maize
  - beans
  - squash
  - chili peppers
  - -cocoa.

4 Mesoamerican cultural characteristics: Food

- Complementary amino acids: maize, beans
- Maize: efficient source of protein and calories
- · Maize, beans, squash grow well together
- Chile peppers: good source of vitamin C
- Chiles and cocoa: culturally important.

#### 5 Mayans

- Ecological Zones
  - Highlands
  - Lowlands
  - Coastal Areas.

#### 6 Mesoamerica: Mayans

- Glyphs: writing
- Counting: Base-20
- Calendar
  - -260 days (13 numbers \* 20 day signs)
  - 365 days (solar year)
  - 52 years (18,980 days=52 solar years=73 260-day cycles)
  - -long-count dating.

## 7 Omec and Mayan writing

## 8 Mesoamerica: Mayans

- Religion
  - Polytheistic (agriculture/nature gods: maize, water, rain, wind)
  - Ritual ball games
  - Blood-letting and human sacrifice
  - Priests and god-kings.

9 Mayan Myths: Popul Vuh

- "not yet one person, one animal, bird, fish, crab, tree, rock, hollow, canyon, meadow, forest"
- "only the sky alone"
- "Only the Maker Modeler alone, Sovereign Plumed Serpent"

#### 10 Mayan Myths: Popul Vuh

- Order of Creation
  - Heart of Sky and Plumed Serpent
  - Sea
  - Earth, mountain plain
  - "the generation of trees, of bushes, and the growth of life, of humankind"
  - mountains
  - cypress and pine
  - channels of water.

#### 11 🔲 Mayan Myths: Popul Vuh

- Mayan gods
  - Plumed Serpent
  - Heart of Sky, Hurricane
    - Thunderbolt Hurricane
    - Newborn Thunderbolt
    - Sudden Thunderbolt.

#### 12 Mayan Myths: Popul Vuh

Place of humans

- "there will be no high days and no bright praise for our work, our design, until the rise of the human work, the human design."

#### <sup>13</sup> Writing (5 minutes)

• What can you say about Mesoamerican religion and culture based on the creation story in the "Popul Vuh"?

#### 14 Mesoamerica: Mayans

- Popul Vuh
  - Creation of humans:
    - Gods wanted praise
    - Animals couldn't speak
    - False starts using mud and wood
    - Humans made from corn and water.

15

- Hero Twins and the Lord of Death
  - disturbed the Lords of Death by playing on the ballcourt
  - Lords of Death challenged them to a ball game
  - ritual sacrifice of one twin by the other.

#### 16 Mayan Ball Game

#### 17 Mesoamerica: Teotihuacan

- Lake Texcoco
- Canal system
- Raised fields
- Urban grid
- Popular uprisings?

18 🔲 Mesoamerica: Teotihuacan

- Trade items
  - obsidian
  - jade
  - -flint
  - shells
  - feathers
  - pottery.

## 19 Andean Cultural Centers

- Moche
  - 100-750 CE
- Nazca

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– 1-650 CE

## 20 Andean Cultures: Moche

- Temple pyramids
- Village chiefdoms
- Agricultural base
  - Ilamas and alpacas
  - irrigation
  - maize
  - cotton
  - peanuts.

## 21 Andean Cultures: Nazca

- Chiefdoms
- Ceremonial center
- Mummies
- Geoglyphs.

# 22 Monkey

- 23 Hummingbird
- 24 Spider