

The Civilizations of Ancient Mesoamerica

Ancient Mexico

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Olmecs

1400 BC to about 400 BC

- ① Olmecatl: “rubber people” or “people of the rubber country.”
- ② 17 huge stone heads—ranging in height from 1.47 to 3.4 metres.
- ③ Art: Basalt, clay, terracotta, and greenstone



Zapotecs

400 BC to about 1200 AC (1521)

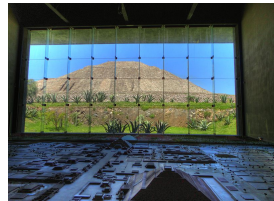
- 1 Zapotecatl, which means "inhabitants of the place of zapote".
"Cloud people".
- 2 Largest settlement: Monte Alban.
- 3 First written texts.



Teotihuacan

100 BC to about 250 AC

- ① Teotihuacan "birthplace of the gods", or "place where gods were born".
- ② 3rd largest pyramid, 65.5 meters.
- ③ Largest city in the pre-Columbian Americas.
- ④ Obsidian tools.



Mayans

250 to 950 AC

- 1 Largest city: Chichén Itzá.
- 2 Mexico, Guatemala and Belize, Honduras and El Salvador.
- 3 They perfected mathematics, astronomy, architecture and the the calendar



mayan observatory



palenque king head

1323 to 1521 AC

- 1 Aztecatl: "people from Aztlan", mythological place for the Nahuatl-speaking culture of the time.
- 2 Art and poetry was developed.
- 3 Aztec calendar stone 3.6 m diameter 98 cm thick.

