

**CHAPTER**  
**6**  
**SECTION 1**

**Note Taking Study Guide**

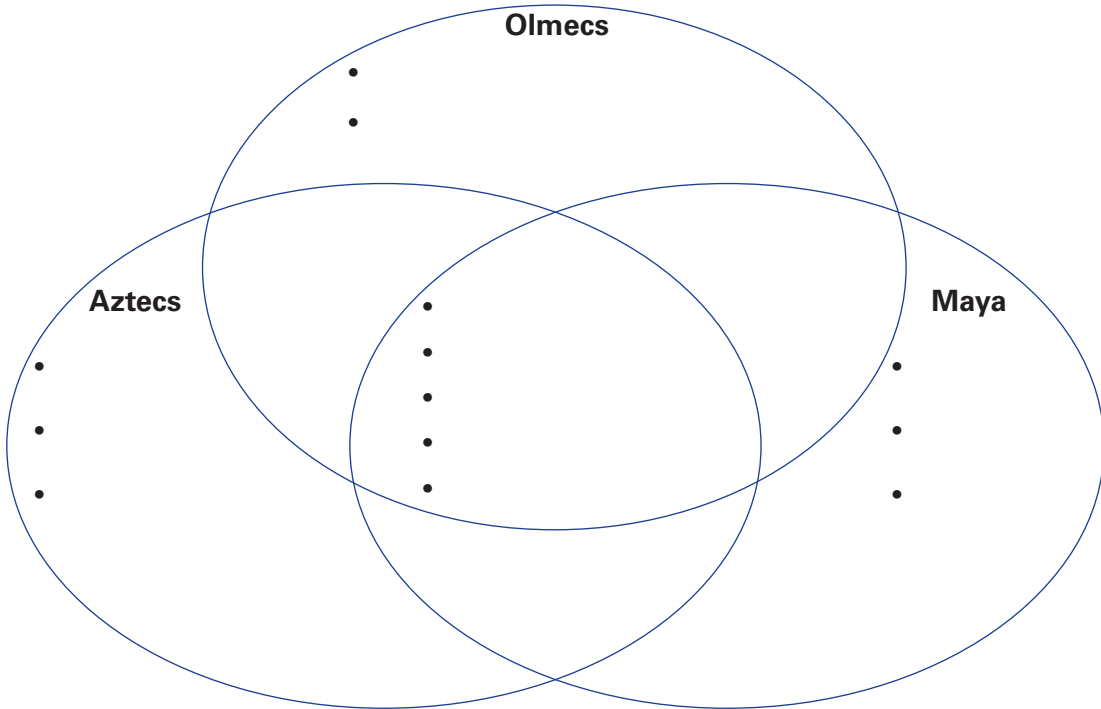
**CIVILIZATIONS OF MESOAMERICA**

**Focus Question:** What factors encouraged the rise of powerful civilizations in Mesoamerica?

A. As you read "People Settle in the Americas," complete the following chart to record the similarities and differences in how early people adapted to climate and geography in different parts of the Americas.

Adapting to the Americas	
Climate	Geography
• _____ _____	• _____ _____
• _____ _____	• _____ _____
• _____ _____	• _____ _____

B. As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following Venn diagram in order to recognize the similarities and differences among the cultures of Mesoamerica.



CHAPTER

6

SECTION 1

Section Summary

CIVILIZATIONS OF MESOAMERICA

People first came to the Americas from Asia between 60,000 B.C. and 18,000 B.C. They may have walked across a land bridge or come by boat. In **Mesoamerica**, a cultural region including Mexico and Central America, people grew **maize** and other crops. They raised animals and settled into villages by about 1500 B.C. As populations grew, some of the villages developed into the early, great cities of the Americas.

The earliest American civilization, that of the **Olmecs**, developed along the Gulf Coast of Mexico. That civilization lasted from about 1500 B.C. to 400 B.C. A class of priests and nobles led it. Later Mesoamerican peoples, including the Maya and Aztecs, adopted elements of Olmec culture, such as carved stone, hieroglyphs, and the calendar.

Around 300 B.C., the Maya were building large cities in present-day Guatemala. By the time the Mayan golden age began, about A.D. 250, Mayan civilization included large, independent city-states throughout southern Mexico and Central America. The Maya were not united politically as an empire. Instead, cities maintained contact through trade and, sometimes, warfare. Mayan cities included temples, palaces, and **stelae**, which were tall stone monuments decorated with carvings. Scribes carved each stela with historical information, such as the names of rulers and dates. They also wrote about astronomy and religion in books made of bark paper. However, around A.D. 900, the Maya abandoned most of their cities, possibly because of frequent warfare or over-farming.

Aztec civilization began in the **Valley of Mexico**. The Aztecs founded **Tenochtitlán**, their capital city, in A.D. 1325. Because it was located on an island in a lake, they found ingenious ways to create more farmland. They built **chinampas**, which were artificial islands made from mud and reeds.

Unlike the Maya, the Aztecs built an empire. They also fought wars continuously. War brought wealth and power. As their empire grew, the Aztecs used **tribute**, or payment from conquered peoples, to make Tenochtitlán magnificent. They also sacrificed war prisoners to the sun god. Among the gods they worshipped were powerful gods from an earlier culture centered at the city of **Teotihuacán**. Although the city fell, its culture influenced later peoples of Mesoamerica.

Review Questions

1. How were Mayan city-states connected?

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2. How did the Aztecs benefit from war?

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READING CHECK

Where was the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán?

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VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *ingenious* mean in the underlined sentence? It comes from a Latin word meaning “natural talent.” Use this word-origins clue to help you figure out the meaning of *ingenious*.

READING SKILL

**Compare and Contrast** Compare and contrast the culture of the Maya with the culture of the Aztecs, including their types of governments and achievements.

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CHAPTER  
**6**  
SECTION 2

**Note Taking Study Guide**

**ANDEAN CULTURES OF SOUTH AMERICA**

**Focus Question:** What characterized the cultures and civilizations that developed in the Andes?

*As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following chart to contrast the cultures of the early peoples of the Andes with the Inca. Use the chart to organize relevant details.*

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
	Chavín	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Location	Unique Achievements	

CHAPTER  
**6**  
SECTION 2

**Section Summary**

**ANDEAN CULTURES OF SOUTH AMERICA**

The first cultures of South America developed in the Andean region. The earliest was the **Chavín** culture, named for the ruins at Chavín de Huantar in Peru. Around 900 B.C., the people built a huge temple complex. Chavín’s arts and religion influenced later peoples of Peru. Later, between A.D. 100 and 700, the **Moche** people lived along the north coast of Peru. They improved farming techniques, built roads, and used relay runners to carry messages. They also used **adobe** to build the largest adobe structure in the Americas. Skilled artisans worked in textiles, gold, woodcarving, and ceramics.

The **Nazca** people lived between 500 B.C. and A.D. 500. They are known for the geoglyphs they etched in the desert of southern Peru. East of the Nazca, the city of **Huari** controlled mountains and coastal areas in Peru. To the south, **Tiahuanaco** became a powerful city on Lake Titicaca. The two cities may have been connected through trade or religion because their artistic styles are similar.

The most powerful of the Andean peoples were the Inca. Their civilization began in the 1100s, but greatly expanded its power after 1438. That is when **Pachacuti Inca Yupanqui**, a skilled warrior and leader, declared himself **Sapa Inca**, or emperor. Eventually, the Inca empire controlled 2,500 miles along the Andes, from Ecuador to Chile. The Inca built a network of roads of about 14,000 miles, winding through deserts and over mountains. The roads allowed news and armies to travel quickly throughout the empire. All roads led through the capital **Cuzco**. Various culture groups from all over the empire lived in this city.

The emperor had absolute power and was also the religious leader. Inca rulers ran an efficient government. Nobles ruled provinces, and local officials handled everyday business. Officials kept records on colored, knotted strings called **quipu**. Everyone had to speak the Inca language and follow the Inca religion. Each village, or **ayllu**, had a leader who assigned jobs and organized work for the government. Farmers created terraces to farm the steep hillsides. They spent part of the year farming for their village and part working land for the emperor.

The Inca worshipped many gods, but the chief god was **Inti**, the sun god. Religious festivals occurred each month to celebrate the forces of nature that were important to the Inca.

**Review Questions**

1. Which group was the most powerful Andean civilization?

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2. What was the responsibility of the village leader?

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**READING CHECK**

What three peoples lived in South America before the Inca?

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**VOCABULARY STRATEGY**

What does the word *network* mean in the underlined sentence? *Network* is a compound word. Use the meanings of the two words that make up *network* to help you figure out its meaning.

**READING SKILL**

**Contrast** How did the Inca civilization change after 1438?

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**CHAPTER**  
**6**  
**SECTION 3**

**Note Taking Study Guide**

**PEOPLES OF NORTH AMERICA**

**Focus Question:** What factors contributed to the growth of diverse cultures in North America?

*As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following outline to help you compare and contrast details about various culture areas.*

**I. Southwest**

- A. Environment—Desert**
- B. Settlement Type**
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_

**II. East**

- A.** \_\_\_\_\_
- B.** \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**III.** \_\_\_\_\_

- A.** \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- B.** \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- C.** \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER  
**6**  
SECTION 3

**Section Summary**

**PEOPLES OF NORTH AMERICA**

Before A.D. 1500, there were many Native American culture groups in North America. Scholars have organized early people of North America into culture areas based on where they lived. This section covers the following culture areas: Southwest, Southeast, Arctic, Northwest Coast, and Northeast.

In the deserts of the Southwest, around 300 B.C., the Hohokam built canals to carry river water to crops. Between A.D. 1150 and A.D. 1300, the Ancestral Puebloans built homes on cliffs. The largest of these housing complexes, at Mesa Verde in present-day Colorado, had more than 200 rooms. The cliffs offered protection from enemies. The Ancestral Puebloans also built villages on the ground, which they modeled after the cliff dwellings. The Spanish called these villages **pueblos**. **Pueblo Bonito** was the largest. It still stands in New Mexico. This huge complex was five stories high and had over 800 rooms. In the center was the **kiva**, a round, underground room used for religious ceremonies and meetings.

The Adena and Hopewell of the Northeast farmed in the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys. They built **earthworks**, which were large piles of earth shaped into burial mounds, bases for structures, and defensive walls. By A.D. 800, these cultures had disappeared. A new people of the Southeast, the Mississippians, began to build large towns and ceremonial centers. They also built mounds. The homes of rulers and nobles sat on top of the mounds. By about 1100 A.D., their great city of **Cahokia**, in present-day Illinois, had 20,000 people.

The Inuit adapted to the harsh Arctic climate by 2000 B.C. They used seals and other animals for food, clothing, tools, and cooking. They built homes from snow and ice and used dogs to pull sleds that carried goods across the ice.

The Northwest Coast provided Native Americans there with plentiful fish and game, and trees for building permanent homes. Wealth gained from trading surplus goods was shared in **potlatch** ceremonies. In this ceremony, a high-ranking person gave gifts to a large number of guests.

Many Native American groups of the Northeast were known as the Iroquois. To stop constant warfare, they formed the **Iroquois League**. This was an alliance of five Iroquois groups, known as the Five Nations.

**Review Questions**

1. How were the Hohokam able to grow crops in the desert?

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2. How did the Inuit adapt to their environment?

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**READING CHECK**

Which Native American culture group built the city of Cahokia?

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**VOCABULARY STRATEGY**

What does the word *complexes* mean in the underlined sentence? Read ahead for context clues. Use these context clues to help you figure out the meaning of *complexes*.

**READING SKILL**

**Compare and Contrast** How were the Hopewell and Mississippian cultures similar? How were they different?

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