

Comparing Civilizations

	Mayas	Aztecs	Incas
Historical Setting	300 - 900 AD	1100 - 1521 AD	1200 - 1535 AD
Geographic Setting	Mexico + Central America	Mexico City and surrounds capital Tenochtitlan	Peru + Chile Andes area
Economy	based on maize (corn) beans, squash slash + burn agriculture	floating gardens for farming collecting tribute payments	Empire - collecting tribute payments + taxes terraced farming
Social Structure	held festivals to honor gods ruler - priests - nobles regular people on outskirts one ruler for each city political + religious leader	priests - Nobles military leaders high ranking royal family led society warlike people royal, powerful leader Empire	women domestic, men public works projects taught language + history
Political/Military System			"Sapa Inca" - emperor descendant of sun god political + religious leader
Religious Beliefs/Practices	Polytheistic benevolent gods	human sacrifice (power to sun) polytheistic	Polytheistic temples
Technological Accomplishments	temples, Pyramids	Pyramids, temples, palaces causeways, aqueducts	roads + communication through empire, bridges earthquake proof stones
Other Accomplishments & Artistic Expressions	hieroglyphics (picture writing) astronomy - calendar	many artisans + craftsmen jewelry, pottery,	City of Machu Picchu quipus - record keeping
Decline	unsure - possibly crop failure or disease	Spanish conquistadors	Spanish conquistadors