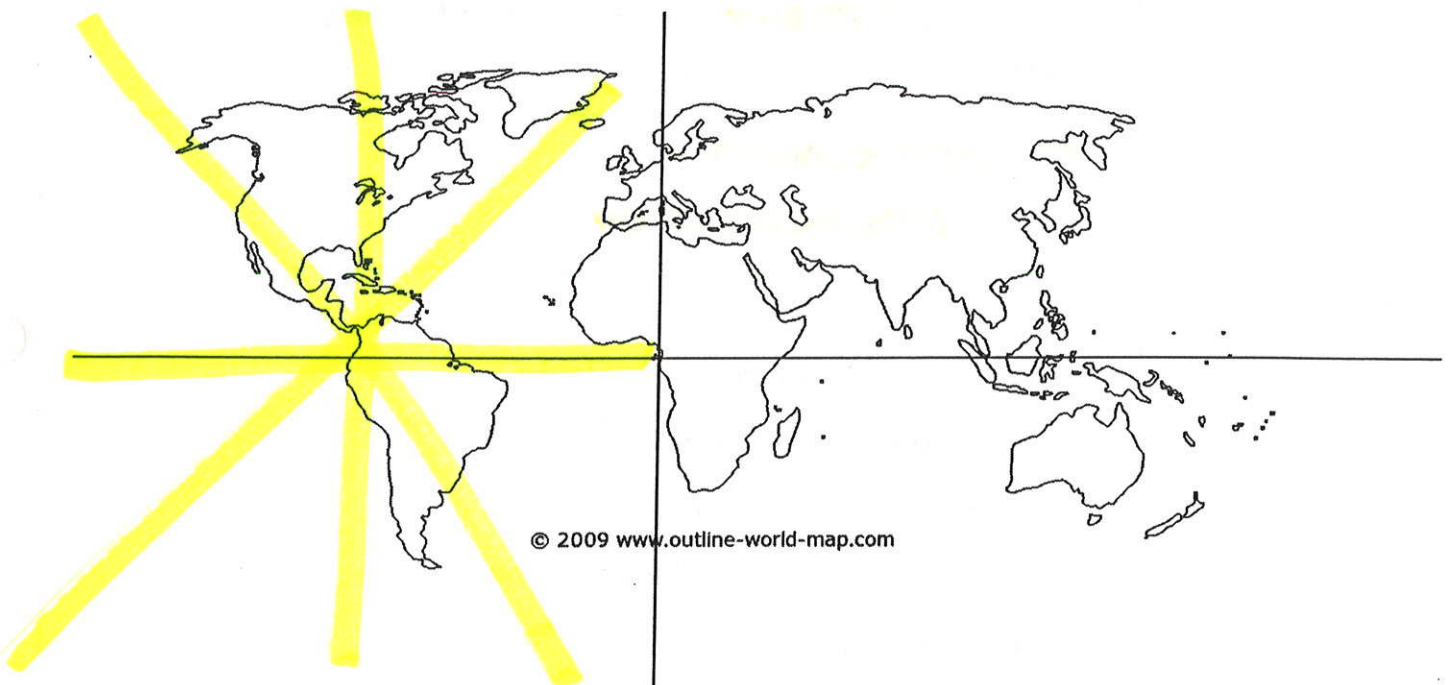


Unit 11: Western Hemisphere

Standard(s) of Learning:

WHI.11 – The student will demonstrate knowledge of major civilizations of the Western Hemisphere, including the Mayan, Aztec, and Incan by

- Describing geographic relationships, with emphasis on patterns of development in terms of climate and physical features
- Describing cultural patterns and political and economic structures



Locate the Western Hemisphere on the map – Color it RED

WHI.11a&b – The Western Hemisphere



→ moved to

- Early hunter-gatherer societies migrated to the Americas during the last Ice Age by crossing the Bering Strait.
- The Mayan, Aztec, and Incan civilizations emerged in South America, Central America, and Mexico.

Mayan Civilization



Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mexican and Central American rainforests• Centered on the Yucatan Peninsula
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City-states ruled by a king• Famous city: Chichen Itza – featured pyramids, temples, palaces, elaborate stone carvings, and a ball court
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on agriculture and trade• Practiced slash and burn agriculture
Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four main social classes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ King – political and religious leader○ Nobles – included priests and warriors○ Merchants and artisans○ Peasants – majority of the population• No rights for women
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Polytheistic• Prayed and made offerings to gods• Practiced human sacrifice• Built pyramids to honor gods
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed a calendar with 365 days• Concept of zero and number system based on 20• Written language – consisted of 800 glyphs (symbols)
Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unsure of what ended the Mayan civilization• By 1000 AD city-states were abandoned

Aztec Civilization



Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arid (dry) valley in Central Mexico
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital city: Tenochtitlan – island city in Lake Texcoco • City-states ruled by an emperor with absolute power
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on agriculture and tribute from conquered people • Developed chinampa farming ↳ \$ • Demanded tribute from conquered people – responded brutally if not paid
Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emperor – absolute ruler • Nobles – included government officials, generals, and religious leaders • Commoners – included merchants, artisans, soldiers, and farmers who owned land • Enslaved people – used for religious sacrifices
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polytheistic – chief god was Huitzilopochtli – sun god • Performed elaborate public ceremonies and made offerings to honor gods • Built pyramids • Performed human sacrifices to honor sun god – several thousand victims were sacrificed each year
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a calendar • Built causeways, aqueducts, canals, and dams
Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provinces began to rebel • Spanish arrived and conquered them

Incan Civilization



Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andes Mountains of South America • Important cities: Cuzco (capital city) and Machu Picchu
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruled by an emperor who controlled the economic and social life of the empire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Government arranged marriages ○ Citizens were required to have passes for travel ○ Government controlled harvest ○ Conquered people where forced to adopt Incan ways • Unified empire by instituting a central bureaucracy, common language, and by building a road system ↳ organized gov't • Demanded tribute from subjects usually in the form of labor
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on high-altitude agriculture ↳ mountains • Practiced terrace farming – <u>cut plots into the side of mountains</u>
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polytheistic • Ruler considered a descendant of the sun god • Performed ceremonies and made offerings and sacrifices to the gods • Built temples to honor gods
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road system – 14,000 miles of road • Skilled engineers • Used quipu – <u>a set of knotted strings</u> – to keep records • Developed a calendar
Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empire became weakened by civil war • Eventually conquered by the Spanish