Taking Prisoners, not names: a sample of the **Meso-America**n Empires. Call it this because didn’t leave much writing that we can read today, but do know something about their warfare. Will talk about the Mayans, pre-Aztecs, Andes civilizations, and a wee on Pueblo and Inuits, if time.

V. Try to focus on pre-Columbian Empires that don’t mention Columbus—those are problematic

**MesoAmerica**, from central Mexico to Northern Central America, has all kinds of geography in a small space, but there were common cultures that bound the region.

Had special means of growing crops

Market exchange economy

Religions had similar features: polytheist, human sacrifice, cosmic cycle of creation and destruction, hieroglyphic writing, 260-day calendar

Talk about what we know, but much of it is what we know now from archeology; hard to reconstruct sometimes

VI. **Maya**:

Go back as far as 2000B.C.E. in Guatemala and the Yucatan region of Mexico, reached height between 250-900C.E.

Math: Invented “0” and place notation and capable of complex calculations. Plotted the cycles of planets, predicted eclipses of sun and moon, made elaborate calendars; Elaborate writing system using pictographs and phonetic or syllabi elements. Wrote on stone, or bark paper or deerskin, wrote books; wrote down historical events, astronomical data, and religious texts;

By 600 C.E. lived in an “almost totally engineered landscape.”—drained swamps, terraced, hillsides, flattened ridge tops, made water management systems (take that, Romans!), great agriculture, supported dense population by 750 C.E. Complex society

Cities, like **Tikal**, contained as many as 50,000 people plus 50,000 people in the surrounding areas

Organized into city-states, ruled by powerful kings, who were divine rulers or ‘state shamans’ able to mediate between man and god. City states were rivals, constantly in a state of war—like Greece!

Then they disappeared. Don’t know really why, but think the population outstripped the resources, intensifying competition for scarce resources. Drought in 840 C.E. Followed by lots of famine, disease, and warfare brought the civilization down. Last piece of writing is from 909 C.E., then nothing; some cultural elements lasted or found homes elsewhere, but Mayan Empire fallen. Nothing lasts forever.

VI. **Teotihuacán**

Greatest city ever, began around 150 B.C.E., built to a plan eight square miles, 550C.E. had a population of 100,000 to 200,000. (Jackson, MS has 170,000).

Lots of what we consider to be in a normal “European” city: marketplaces, spacious plazas, temples, palaces, apartment complexes, slums, waterways, reservoirs, drainage systems (take that, Rome!), and murals.

Main north / south boulevard, “Street of the Dead” were the grad homes of the elite, the headquarters of state authorities, many temples, and two giant pyramids.  
**Pyramid of the Sun** built over a tunnel that went down into a cave, where the sun and moon were born.

**Temple of the Feathered Serpent**: found remains of 200 people with hands tied behind backs: what does this mean? (guess), probably unwilling victims who were sacrificed to follow someone into the afterlife.

Off the main road: common people lived in apartment complexes, with kitchen, sleeping quarters, courtyards, and shrines. Farmers and servants, as well as artisans, masons, leather workers, potters, merchants, civil servants, lived here.

Buildings decorated with murals: one shows happy people cavorting in irrigated files, playing games, singing, and chasing butterflies= heaven? (guess)

Another: dancing warriors carrying elaborate curved knives, with bleeding human hearts on them.

Had writing, can’t understand it.

Teotihuacán had a sphere of influence of at least 10,000 sq miles (probably much more) over much of Mesoamerica, from 300-600 C.E.

**Kaminalijuyu**, a Mayan city in the southern highlands, was taken over completely by the Teotihuacán army and organized as a colony. In **Tikal** in 378 C.E., agents of Teotihuacán apparently engineered a coup and places a collaborator on the throne and turned the city into an ally or satellite.

650 C.E. city mysteriously collapsed. Aztec Empire called in the “city of the gods.”

Again, no civilization lasts forever, but makes me think of Ancient Rome. So many times lump all of South America and Meso America into one lump, but it’s like Europe, which we give much more credit to.

Civilizations in the **Andes**

Lots of different ecological systems, people built steps.

Incas lived in almost all of the 2500 miles of mountains by the 15th century, but they were just the most recent.

First civilization there was the **Norte Chico**, starting at 3000 B.C.E. Lots of fishing, exchanged with inland peoples; same time as Sumer, and Stonehenge; like Stonehenge, don’t know much; looks like not much warfare, no city walls, but found lots of knotted cords that Incas used for accounting (**quipu**)—shows that there may have been a complex civilization there.

Classical era of Andes civilization 1000 B.C.E. to 1000 C.E.

**Chavín**: located on a trade route high in the Andes. 750 B.C.E. was a small town of 2,000 to 3,000 people, with clear distinctions between elite classes and ordinary people, elaborate temple complex, drainage canals, carvings, animal deities, didn’t have an empire as we think of it, but a religious cult.

**Moche** 200 B.C.E. 250-miles of northern coast, 13 river valleys, 100 and 800 C.E. flourished, complex irrigation system, crops fertilized by guano.

Ruled by warrior-priests lived on type of huge **Pyramids of the Sun**, 143 –million sun-dried bricks. Shaman rulers took hallucinogenic drugs, conducted rituals to communicate between men and gods, sacrificed human victims, drawn from their prisoners of war, central to their politic-religious life. Lots of scenes of decapitation and dismemberment in their art

Extremely wealthy, found lots of riches in the burials of elite rulers, called three of the tombs **Lords of Sipan** (have students analyze the tomb)

What they see: man's remains in an elaborate god masks, necklaces, headdresses, turquoise and gold bead bracelets, cotton tunics, a gold rattle showing the death of a prisoner, knife, the picture shows him died 290 C.E. 40 years old, 5’5”, some arthritis, good health, little physical labor, buried with 4 men, three young women, priest, guard, dog, and lots of food and drink.

Near this was the tomb of a woman: late twenties, heavily tattooed, gold sewing needles, weaving tools, gold, silver, and copper, female sacrificial victim, two war clubs and 23 spear throwers: warrior priestess?

Incredible craftsmen

Eventually, Inca form an empire and take over the entire region. We give so much credit to Ancient Rome, but are these civilizations any less interesting or far-reaching, no. So why not talk about them much?

**Ancestral Pueblo**

Southwest Region of North America started to farm at about 1000 B.C.E. difficult to farm in desert region, so took a while for agriculture to be established, used canals in the desert; desert might not have been as hot as it is today. 600 -800 B.C.E. more permanent village life, lived in pit houses, by 900 C.E., villages included kivas, large pit structures for ceremonial purposes, showing that they thought people emerged from the world below.

Local trade networks linked villages eventually get larger settlements and above ground settlements known as Pueblos. **Chaco canyon** in New Mexico from 860-1130 C.E. five major pueblos 25,000 square miles, lined 70 settlements, not a large population, maybe 5,000, **Pueblo Bonito** 600 rooms and many **kivas**, 100s of roads like a wheel. Also were great astronomers, and built some of their structures in accordance to where light fell during the solstice (like Stonehenge!).

Lots of warfare. Also drought By 1300 B.C.E. flourishing civilization was over, scattered, became the various Pueblo people we know today.

**Inuit** Originate from Siberia around 2000 B.C.E. populated Alaska, Canadian arctic, and Greenland by 1000 C.E. Also might know them as “Eskimo”, but that is a derogatory world which means, “eaters of raw flesh” that were assigned to them by Algonquian-speaking American Indians.

Remarkable living in harsh climate.

Developed techniques for whaling in 800 C.E., had skin boats, that could carry crews of 8 men, and harpoons, so could pursue and kill a wounded whale, in the summer, migratory whales come close to the shore in Alaska to feed, and that’s hunting season. One whaling crew could capture 12 whales in a season, which would support hundreds of people.

Boat captains were social leaders, froze whale meat, blubber yielded oil for lamps, indoor cooking, tailored fur and skin clothing, with pockets to let out body heat, helped people stay warm and dry, used dogs for transportation. Lived in seal-skin tents, but in igloos during hunting season. Would have huge peaceable assemblies, with 1,000 people to establish trade connections. Know about it, because in the 18th centuries, people who wrote these things down observed the people, and they are protected and still maintain many elements of their lifestyle.