**Early American Civilizations**

1. Moche – 200 BC – 700 CE, near Peru
2. Architecture – Huaca del Sol, stepped pyramid temple; Huaca de la Luna, terraced platform temple; both adobe bricks; fortified cities built around these temples; irrigation networks of ditches
3. Economy and trade – corn, beans, llamas (transportation, fur for textiles, dung for fertilizer); food surplus led to artisan class, painted ceramics, jewelry, gold, copper, wool; local trade, no large boats or wheels
4. Society and Religion – ayllus –small communities; all in community share same mythical ancestor, therefore all are related, venerated ancestors; human sacrifice; many gods
5. Disappearance of Moche – 30 years of floods then 30 years of drought probably ended 9 century civilization; violence and civil war also factors
6. Mesoamerica
7. Teotihuacan – 150 BC near Mexico City (birthplace of the Gods); Teotihuacan largest city in West, possibly in world at the time; laid out in grid, multistory apartments; strong central govt; Pyramid of Sun and Moon, Temple of Quetzalcoatl, feathered serpent; Avenue of Dead connected these monuments; priests and nobles at top, peasants and artisans at bottom; farming, mining of obsidian; tanning, leather, pottery, tools, weapons
8. Decline – reason unclear; 600-650 CE fire burned most of city
9. Mayans – 250-900 CE, south Mexico, Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, about 40 cities w 5000-50,000 inhabitants
10. Agriculture – slash and burn – cut down forests, burn them, ashes are fertilizer; terraced fields limited erosion; drained swamps, irrigation systems, hunted deer, then domesticated them; corn, beans, squash
11. Cities – stone tools to shape limestone temples, palaces, plazas, pyramids
12. Mayan govt – city-states each ruled by a king; women could rule if no male heirs; city states fought each other for tribute and captives; kings were descended from god, and become one w god upon death; kings inherited, but could be overthrown; armies raised only as needed; no central govt
13. Mayan religion – polytheistic; sun, rain and corn gods; priests powerful; one god female, priests could be female; Mayan calendar ruled religious festivals; human sacrifice, usually war captives; ball game w religious rituals
14. Science and Culture – “Greeks of the New World”; astronomy; observatory at Chichen Itza; prediction of eclipses and moon phases; more accurate calendar than in Europe; math, zero, hundreds of millions place; advanced writing system like hieroglyphics, 850 characters; paper from tree barks; carved wood, stone, jade
15. Decline of Mayan cities – population growth crowded cities; deforestation; cities at war; drought; cities abandoned for rural life