

## Culture History -- Prehistory

### Peopling of the Americas

(betwn 25,000-15,000 years ago)

Bering Strait route  
trans-Pacific?

early hunters and gathers

earliest sites? abt 12000BP

Pleistocene overkill

diffusionists vs independent invention

domestication (Tehuacan Valley, Mexico)

New World plants (see list)

New World animals

MCA: dog, turkey

SA: llamas, alpacas, muscovy duck,  
guinea pig

Mesoamerican plant trilogy

### Early cultures: Mesoamerica

Pre-Classic -- 1500 BC-25 AD

Olmecs-Gulf Coast

Classic -- 250 AD - 900 AD

Teotihuacan-Central Mexico

Maya-Guatemala, Honduras

Post-Classic -- 900 AD - 1519 AD

Central Mexico: Toltecs (Tula)

Aztecs-Tenochtitlan (after 1400)

Maya: Yucatan

Maya architecture

Maya decline?

Rise of Aztecs/Mexica

Nahuatl

chinampa agriculture

manioc line

lower Central America

### Early cultures: South America

## Geography of Latin America -- Key word list #5

1000 BC-250 AD - Chavin - Central Andes,  
Peru

1000 AD - 1500 AD - Chibchas - Colombia

Other highland cultures:

Huari - Southern Andes, Peru

Tiahuanaco - Altiplano, Peru,  
Bolivia

Coastal Cultures:

Chimu, Moche, Paracas, Nazca,  
Chancay

Inca empire: 1400-1532

extent: Ecuador to Argentina

quipus

mita

mitamaes

Cuzco

traditional economies at conquest

high and low culture regions