What were the ancient civilizations of Latin America and their major accomplishments?

THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA
WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THESE GROUPS?

The Aztecs

The Incas

The Mayas
The people of Latin America (Mesoamerica) were the agricultural-based societies of Mexico & Central America

- Pre-Columbus
  - (prior to 1492)

Three (3) major groups:

- Aztecs
- Incas
- Mayas
WHERE DID THESE CIVILIZATIONS COME FROM?

- Arrival of the first man in America
  - Land bridge (Alaska)

- Common ancestors: The Olmecs
  - Lived in Central Mexico

- These civilizations grew due to a number of factors:
  + Use of land (farming)
  + Development of government
  + Development of “the arts”
WHO WERE THE AZTECS?

- Dominant native group of central Mexico
  - The Valley of Mexico
- Conquerors
  - Powerful military
  - Vast alliance system
- Well-organized / educated society
  - Skilled engineers
FOUNDING OF THE AZTEC CAPITAL
THE AZTEC MILITARY
AZTEC’S HUMAN SACRIFICE
WHO WERE THE MAYAS?

- Most advanced native group of the Latin America
  - Yucatan Peninsula

- Very advanced written language & “the arts”
  - Math & astrology

- Ancestry still around today
MAYAN OBSERVATORIES
APACOALYPTO (2006)
MAYAN CALENDAR – IS DOOMSDAY COMING?
WHO WERE THE INCAS?

- Dominant native culture of South America
  - Andes Mountains

- Complex government system
  - Branches of government

- Skilled Engineers
  - Network of roads / communication
INCA FARMING TECHNOLOGY
INCAN ROADS AND ENGINEERING
MACHO PICCHU
No one is really sure what brought each down
- Spanish colonization
- Disease
- Internal problems