

Americas

Pre-Colombian

Mesoamerica

Civilizations



Olmec 800–400 B.C.E

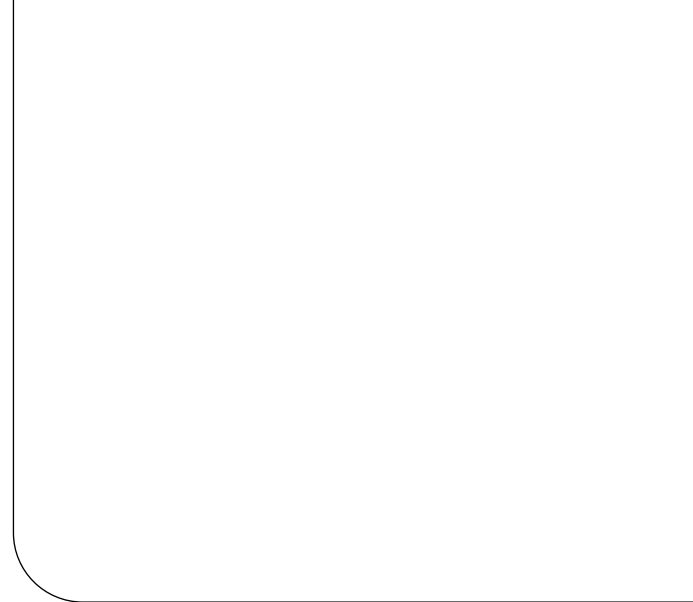
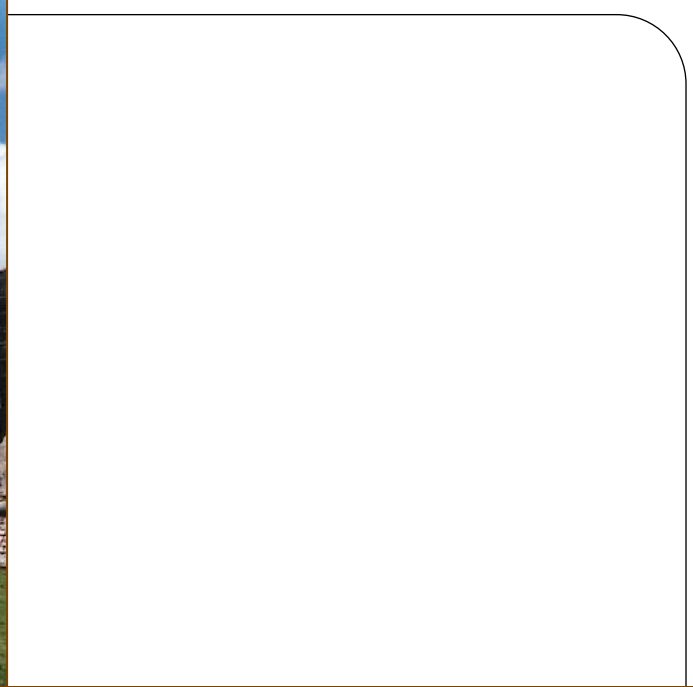
- Polytheistic
- Urban culture-pyramids
- Agriculture
 - especially corn and beans
 - domestication of animals (turkeys, dogs)
- Calendars
- No writing
- Disappeared with little traces except legacy to successor cultures—Maya



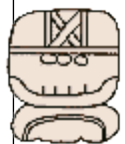
Maya 300 BCE-800 CE



- Built on Olmec culture
- Added writing-hieroglyphs
- Polytheistic
 - War to get slaves for sacrifice and work not land
 - Blood for the gods
- Rigid Social Hierarchy
 - Kings, priests, nobles, merchants, peasants, slaves



Mayan Glyphs



Sky



King



House








Child



City



Mayan Counting

				
0	1	5	18	20

What happened to the Maya?