**KC 2.2 III: Unique social and economic dimensions developed in imperial societies in Afro-Eurasia and the Americas.**

1. Cities served as centers of trade, public performance of religious rituals, and political administration for states and empires.
2. **Teotihuacan**, Mexico
3. Timeline: @100 BC – 7th Century AD
4. Location: About 30 miles NE of Mexico City
5. City of the Gods
6. Aztec called this “place where the Gods were Born”
   1. They believed the Gods created the fifth universe here after the fourth was destroyed.
7. Aztec gave the city its name and used it as a pilgrimage center @AD 1320
8. Exact information on people or culture has not been found. All info comes from archeology.
9. City was dominated by religious ritual use
   1. Became a religious center around the birth of Christ
   2. Pyramid of the Sun and Pyramid of the Moon were used for religious rituals including human sacrifice
      1. Pyramid of Sun was over 206 feet tall. A little over half the height of the Great Pyramid but about same at the base
   3. Primary deity was a female goddess now called “Spider Woman” by historians.
10. The Avenue of the Dead
    1. Ran more than 1.5 miles through center of the city
    2. Divided the city into two sections with apartment compounds built in pyramid style on each side.
11. Importance
    1. Teotihuacan was the dominant urban area in Mesoamerica
       1. Most likely acted as an empire much like the Aztec that followed.
       2. Trade went as far south as the Maya realm and Guatemala
       3. Murals suggest that the people of Teotihuacan were great warriors who captured people for sacrifice to avert the end of the world
       4. City was larger in size and population than Rome
          1. At its peak Teotihuacan had as many as 120,000 to 200,000 inhabitants (largest city in New World)
12. Decline
    1. Mysterious end to the city came around AD 650-700.
    2. Historians theorize that overpopulation and depletion of natural resources led to its demise.