1. Maya (These notes were compiled by your classmates)
   1. Location- Present day southern Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala in the Yucatan peninsula.
   2. City-States
      1. Def: Mayan cities were independent and ruled by a god-king who was the center for religious ceremonies and trade.
      2. Monumental architecture: Buildings were easily recognized as Maya because they were dramatic. Stepped pyramids were common.
      3. Ball Game- Ceremonial game with religious significance. Playing this game would maintain the cycles of the sun and moon and bring rain.
      4. The losing teams would be killed and sacrificed to the gods.
   3. Agriculture
      1. Crops- Maize(corn), squash, beans, chili peppers
      2. Techniques- Milpa- Slash and burn technique. Mayans used terrace farming, irrigation, and flood control to aid farming.
   4. Mayan Hierarchy
      1. King- Highest class in Mayan Hierarchy. Built temples or pyramids to show their power. Half god, half human, or worked for the gods.
      2. Noble Class
         1. Priests- Performed activities of ritual sacrifice and divination.
         2. Leading warriors- Kingdoms fought constantly with each other and warriors won tremendous prestige by capturing high ranking enemies. Captives were usually made slaves and humiliated, tortured, and ritually sacrificed.
      3. Merchants and artisans- Merchants sold and traded with different cities. Artisans made pottery and designed buildings and temples.
      4. Peasants- Largest group in society
   5. Religion
      1. Polytheistic- The belief in many gods
      2. Human Sacrifice- The ultimate offering of blood to the Gods
      3. Mathematics, the calendar, and astronomy
         1. Calendar- Religious in nature. The Maya had a God for every day so the calendar was used to tell which God they should praise.
         2. Math- Maya used a number system based on 20 with dots representing the numbers 1-4 and a bar that represented 5. This was used for the calendar and astronomical work rather than counting.
         3. Astrology reflected order in the universe and the gods' place in it.

* 1. Language
     1. Glyphs- The Mayan writing system, the earliest found record was from the 3rd century.
     2. Codex- Bark paper folding books in hieroglyphic script
  2. Marriage
     1. Series of negotiations between adults and priests, they believed in creating large families.
  3. Decline of the Maya
     1. Began around 750 BCE
     2. Ended around 900 BCE
     3. The city-states began to mysteriously decline by the time the Spanish conquered them.
     4. Crop failures, overworked land, deforestation, revolts, and warfare were all causes for the decline.