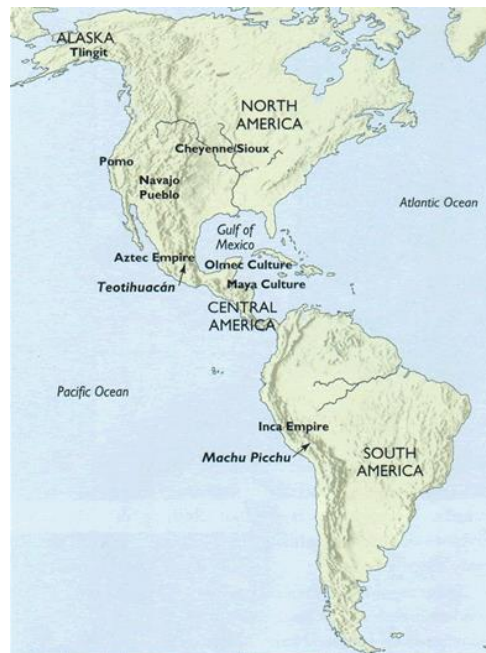
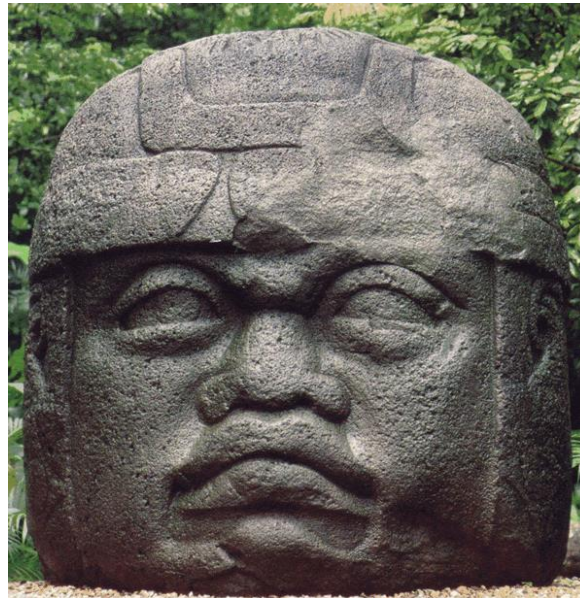


Americas, c. 900 BCE – 1600 CE



MESOAMERICA

Olmec



Colossal Head, La Venta, Mexico c. 900-400 BCE

This large stone sculpture of a head comes from the early Mesoamerican, Olmec culture. The Olmec created colossal heads from basalt blocks that they quarried and moved great distances. The heads range from 5 – 12 feet tall and weigh between 5 and 20 some tons. They are naturalistic and have unique facial features. The Olmec influenced the Maya and Aztec who later occupied the land.

Maya



Maya *Chacmool* from Chichen Itza, between 514 - 1194 CE

This stone figure is an example of a *Chac Mool*. Chacmool are Mesoamerican sculptures made by both the Maya and Aztec cultures. They are half reclining figures usually shown with head facing to the side, arms and legs bent, and holding a bowl or a disk (typically over the stomach).

Chacmool statues have been found near Toltec, Mayan and Aztec temples.

SOUTH AMERICA

Moche



Countless gold objects from Mesoamerica and South America were melted down by Spanish invaders.

This exquisite ear ornament made of gold and turquoise was recently discovered in a Moche tomb in north Peru. It is five inches in diameter.

The person buried in the tomb wore a crown and necklace similar the figure in the center of the earring.

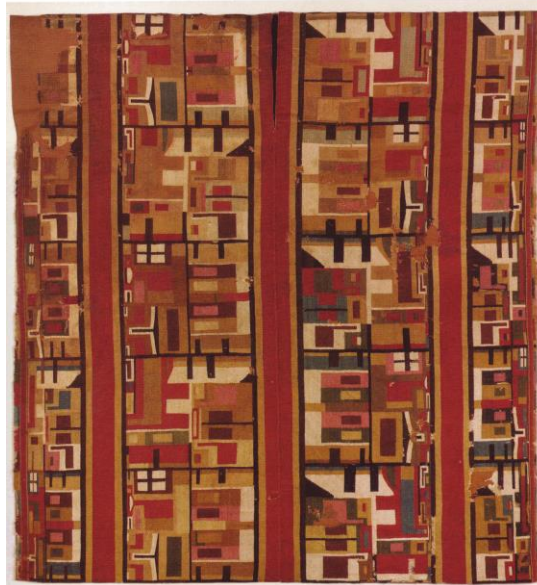
Nazca



Geoglyph, Nazca plain, Peru c. 500 CE

A geoglyph is a large scale drawing made in the earth. In southwestern Peru, the Nazca drew dozens of images on the surface of the ground including this hummingbird with a wingspan 200 feet wide.

Wari



Lima Tapestry, Peru, 500-800 CE

This is an example of a Peruvian tapestry. This brightly colored tunic would have been worn by an elite member of the Wari culture.

Fine Wari textiles have as many as 200 threads per inch.

NORTH AMERICA

Ipiutak



Ivory Burial Mask, Point Hope Settlement c. 100 CE

Ipiutak peoples lived in northwestern Alaska from the 2nd to the 6th century CE. Most of the objects made by the Ipiutak, are ivory. This includes decorative, daily use, and ceremonial pieces. Wood was scarce in the tundra and the Ipiutak carved walrus tusk to create works like this burial mask.

Tlingit



Tlingit Mask, Alaska, before 1843

The Tlingit live on the Northwest coastline from Seattle to Alaska. They are most well-known for their wood carvings, above all, their elaborately carved and painted totem poles.

This mask was made by a Tlingit artist in Alaska before 1843. It is carved and painted wood with copper and tanned skin ties. The abalone shell eyes and teeth add to its beauty.

Navajo



Navajo Eye-Dazzler Blanket, Arizona, c. 1890

Navajo weavings are some of the most well known Southwestern textiles. Traditionally, these works were made by the Navajo women on an upright loom.

This “eye-dazzler” blanket uses cotton and wool yarns. The artist adds to the dazzling effect with contrasting complementary reds and greens, dramatic alternation of dark and light.

Mimbres



Mimbres Bowl from Cameron Creek village, New Mexico 1000-1150 CE

Traditional Mimbres pottery of the American Southwest was hand built by women using the coil method.

The symmetry and thin walls of this example are even more impressive when you know that it was not created on a potter's wheel.

You can see a hole in the middle, just below the midsection of the figure. Vessels, such as this one, were often pierced or ritually “killed” and in graves over their owner's face.

Sioux



Baby Carrier, Eastern Sioux, Upper Mississippi River area, 19th century

This Sioux baby carrier is decorated with porcupine quills. Quill work is a traditional was practiced by the Sioux women.

The decorative motif has various symbols of protection, such as thunder birds. The quills were soaked and softened, then worked into this pattern.