

# Native American Civilizations

Olmec—Believed to be the oldest civilizations in the Americas

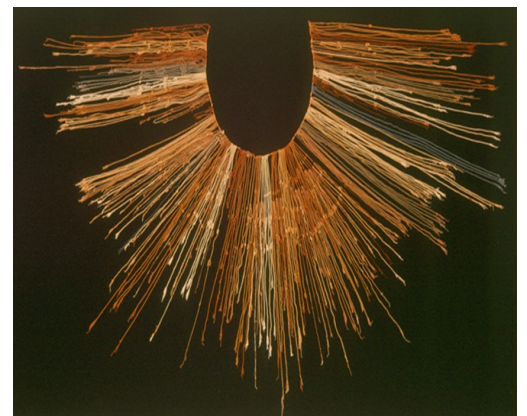


Mayans—Made advancements in religion, farming, building cities, writing, math, and astronomy



Aztecs — Made human sacrifices to their god of war, Huitzilopochtli. Built their capital city, Tenochtitlan, in the middle of a lake. City became as large as many European cities of the time.

Inca—Built a vast empire in the Andes Mountains with Cuzco as the capital city. They came up with a complex system of roads to keep the empire together. Used string called Khipu to keep records for the empire.



# Conquistadors

Conquistadors were conquerors who wanted gold, glory and god (to convert others to Christianity). They went exploring to the New World to conquer the Native Peoples.

Hernan Cortes was a Spanish conquistador who conquered the Aztecs. He was only 19 years old!



Francisco Pizarro was a Spanish conquistador who conquered the Incas. He captured the Incan leader Atahualpa so he could get more gold.

Life was hard for the native people under the encomienda system under Spanish rule!