

Key Terms, Concepts and Characters and notes**Nov. 28 and 30, 2006: Mesoamerica: Maya civilization**

Culture-historic periods

Post-Classic	ca.	950 A.D. - 1550 A.D.
Classic Period		200 A.D. - 900 A.D.
Preclassic Period		500 B.C. - 200 A.D.
Formative Period - late		500 B.C. - 0 B.C.

Nakbé		“bajos”
Tikal		ridged fields
Copan		stela (stelae)
Bonampak		Popol Vuh

Notes:**Classic Maya traits (200 -900 AD)**

1. Tropical rainforest: multiple agricultural strategies
2. Centers: variable in size - towns to rare cities, not highly nucleated population centers
5,000 to 80,000 people, dispersed in a more suburban pattern
3. Solid stepped pyramids from limestone/lime mortar and plaster; roof combs
4. Multi-storied administrative buildings, corbelled arches, ballcourts
5. Stelae - political uses
 - a. depictions of rulers
 - b. inscriptions - recording births and ascending to power
6. Polychrome pottery
7. Polychrome murals - distinctive depictions of people
8. Hieroglyphic writing system (partly syllabic) - official written history
9. Calendar beginning at 3113 BCE, dated buildings and stelae
10. Invented concept of zero

Source of the Maya people

1. indigenous development from h/g's and earlier farmers
2. emigration from Honduras (traces of volcanism in area at 200 BC.)
3. emigration from Olmec area
4. emigration from Pacific coast area of southern Guatemala and southern Mexico