

Key Terms, Concepts and Characters

Nov. 14, 16 and 21, 2006: Mesoamerica: Emergence of early lowland civilization

Formative Period

| | |
|--------|------------------|
| late | 500 - 0 B.C. |
| middle | 900 - 500 B.C. |
| early | 2,500 - 900 B.C. |

Developments -

1. public architecture - esp. temples
2. craft specialization
3. long distance exchange networks
4. emerging social hierarchies

Cultural uniformity of early Mesoamerican civilizations

1. similarity of subsistence
2. settled village life
3. social hierarchies
4. centralized political organization
5. shared set of religious beliefs
6. writing systems
7. numerical systems

Olmecs

Major Sites

San Lorenzo - ca. 1,500 - 1,100 B.C. (apogee ca. 1,200 -1,100 B.C.)

La Venta - ca. 1,300 - 500 B.C. (apogee ca. 800 -500 B.C.)

Tres Zapotes -

Tuxtla Mts.

slash and burn agriculture

vacant ceremonial center model

origins models

highlands origins

local *in situ* evolution

models for centralization and development

role of trade and development of elite groups

agricultural intensification and status differentiation

levee lands - Coatzacoalcos River and soils (L-K & S. - Cotzacoalcos)

estuarine/riverine resources and agricultural potential model

role of religious ideology as a centralizing focus.