Key Terms, Concepts and Characters and notes

Nov. 28 and 30, 2006: Mesoamerica: Maya civilization

Culture-historic periods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post-Classic</td>
<td>ca. 950 A.D. - 1550 A.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classic Period</td>
<td>200 A.D. - 900 A.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preclassic Period</td>
<td>500 B.C. - 200 A.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formative Period</td>
<td>late 500 B.C. - 0 B.C.</td>
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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