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| **Date** | **History and Culture** | **Art and Architecture** |
| 15,000 BCE | Arrival of the earliest human inhabitants to South America |  |
| 10,000 – 3,000 BCE | **Archaic Cultures** |  |
| 8000 BCE | Cave dwellings in the central highlands of Peru. | First baskets made of plant fiber appear in Pre-Columbian Art of the Andes. |
| 4000 – 1800 BCE | **Early Ceramic Cultures** | Pottery is present in the Caribbean lowlands of Colombia. |
| 3500 BCE | Alpacas and llamas are domesticated in the central Andes |  |
| ca. 2400 BCE |  | Cotton textiles of complex technique and design found at Huaca Prieta in the Chicama Valley (Peru). |
| 2000 BCE |  | The Temple of the Crossed Hands is built at Kotosh (northern Andes). |
| 1800 BCE | Sedentary village are prevalent and pottery appears in Mesoamerica. |  |
| ca. 1500 BCE |  | The Huaca de los Reyes, a grand building complex is built in the Moche Valley (Peru). |
| 1500 BCE | **The rise of the Olmec** |  |
| 1400 BCE | The people of San Lorenzo modify the natural plateau to lay the ground for the Olmec capital. |  |
| 1200 BCE | San Lorenzo becomes the great ceremonial center of the Olmec. |  |
| 1000 – 500 BCE | **Chavín Culture** |  |
| 950 BCE | San Lorenzo loses political power and population | *Lanzón* (15 ft. tall) monolith is erected inside the Old Temple at Chavín de Huantar. |
| 900 BCE | The Olmec city of La Venta is established. |  |
| 850 BCE | Chavín de Huantar attracts large numbers of pilgrims and tribute |  |
| 700 – 100 BCE | **Paracas Culture** |  |
| 600 BCE |  | Construction of the ceremonial complex at Chiripá at Lake Titicaca. |
| 500 BCE | Monte Albán is founded, and grows rapidly into the major regional center. | The great ball court at Chichén is built. |
| 500 BCE - 900 CE | **Zipotec Kingdoms** |  |
| 400 BCE | Two calendars, a 365-day solar calendar and a 260-day ritual calendar appear. |  |
| 200 BCE – 700 CE | **Greater Chiriqui cultures** | On the north coast of Peru, red-ware vessels replace the dark monochromes made in the area. |
| 150 BCE | The site of Tiwanaku on Lake Titicaca is laid out in a grid plan (Bolivia). | Stone sculptures in Yaya-Mama style, are erected in the Lake Titicaca Basin. |
| 100 BCE | The demise of the third Olmec Capital known as Tres Zapotes. | The Pyramid of the Sun and Pyramid of the Moon are built in the Moche Valley. |
| 100 CE – 800 CE | **Rise of the Moche civilization** | Teotihuacan establishes irrigation and has active obsidian workshops, the pyramid of Sun is built. |
| 100 CE – 700 CE | **Nazca Culture** | On the Nazca River, Cahuachi (Peru) becomes the dominant ceremonial site attracting hundreds of pilgrims. |
| 200 CE | Nazca peoples create a labyrinth of large-scale geoglyphs of animals and geometric shapes in the deserted Pampas. | The *talud-tablero*, a particular architectural outline appears on the Temple of the Feathered Serpent in Teotihuacan. |
| 378 CE | In Guatemala's Petén, the ninth ruler of the Maya city of Tikal, dies. |  |
| 400 CE | The Diquís region (Costa Rica) increases in population. | Barriles, a ceremonial center in the Chiriquí region flourishes. |
| 432 CE | City of Palenque is established. |  |
| 450 CE | The technology of goldsmiths spreads from Colombia to parts of the Antilles |  |
| 500 CE | The center of Cahuachi in the Nazca Valley becomes a burial ground and site for pilgrimage. | Polychrome ceramic techniques begin to blossom in areas of the Chiriquí region (Panama). |
| 550 CE | The populations of the Greater Antilles increases (Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Dominican Republic and Cuba). | Perfected stone carving techniques are evident in effigy *metates* (grinding tables). |
| 615 – 638 CE | King Pakal began ambitious architectural expansion in the city of Palenque. |  |
| 650 CE | Due to internal political and economic crisis in Teotihuacan, city life and production cease to exist until about 900 CE. |  |
| 682 CE |  | The Temple of the Inscriptions is completed at Palenque and is to be used as the tomb of King Pakal the Great. |
| 800 CE | The Sicán peoples in the Lambayeque region gain power. | Metallurgy is introduced into western Mexico, probably through long-distance contact with much older South American traditions. |
| 900 CE | Toltec Tula is the powerful capital of a state that integrates the diverse peoples of Mexico into a new cultural system. | Metalworking is practiced and its popularity grows. Turquoise becomes an important luxury material. |
| 925 CE |  | The Toltecs reach Chichén Itzá, introducing new architectural forms and imagery. |
| 1000 CE | The northern Sicán culture of Peru is at its height. | Ceramics, textiles, metal objects, and painted murals bear the image of the Sicán Lord. |
| 1100 CE | Nahuatl-speaking peoples begin migrating toward central Mexico. | Figurative motifs in Panama are replaced by geometric designs. |
| 1200 CE – 1600 CE | **Late Muisca Culture** |  |
| 1200 CE – 1500 CE | **Rise of Taíno Culture** |  |
| 1250 CE |  | Stylized stone figures from the Diquís area (southern Costa Rica) demonstrate affinities to forms from the Muiscas in Colombia. |
| 1300 CE | In a second wave of conquests, the Chimú (northern Peru) bring the Lambayeque area under their control. | The Taíno build plazas and ballcourts for communal ritual activities. |
| 1325 CE | The Mexica people settle in the Basin of Mexico's Lake Texcoco. | Ceramics, clearly derived from earlier Moche traditions, are predominantly blackware, and made in molds in large quantities. |
| 1345 CE | **The rise of the Aztec Empire** | Tenochtitlan is founded |
| ca.1350 CE | In the Oaxaca Valley, Mixtecs marry into Zapotec royalty, increasing their local power. | Spread of pre-Inca ceramic style, known as *Killke* becomes an established stylistic form. |
| 1376 - 1395 CE | The first king of Tenochtitlan, Acamapichitli, rules. |  |
| 1390 CE | Yupanqui is crowned *Sapa Inca* (unique Inca king), assuming the name Pachakuti. He rules from 1391 to 1473 CE. | Construction of Templo Mayor begins in Tenochtitlan. |
| 1410 CE | Guayabo de Turrialba (Costa Rica's Altantic coast) becomes the largest site in the area. |  |
| 1430 CE |  | In the Diquís region (southern Costa Rica), varied types of ceramic styles are made. |
| 1431 CE | Establishment of the Triple Alliance between the Mexica, the Acolhua in the city Texcoco, and the Tepaneca of Tlacopan, becomes the foundation of the Aztec empire. |  |
| 1440 -1468 CE | Moctezuma I continues the expansion of the Aztec empire |  |
| 1452 CE | Tenochtitlan severely damaged by flooding and a spread of famine. |  |
| 1463 CE | Topa Inka and his father Pachakuti begin extending the Inca domain to Quito and towards Chile. |  |
| 1470 C.E |  | The construction of the city of Tenochtitlan was laid on the ruins of the city of Teotihuacan. |
| 1480 CE | The Osa Peninsula (Diquís region) becomes major source of gold. |  |
| 1490 CE |  | The Inca build the Temple of the Sun over Pachacamac, the ancient oracle and pilgrimage center. |
| 1492 CE | Christopher Columbus's (1451–1506) lands at Santo Domingo on October 12. |  |
| 1493 CE - | Huayna Capac succeeds Topa Inca. |  |
| 1498 CE | Christopher Columbus lands on the continent of South America through the coast of Venezuela. |  |
| 1502-1520 CE | Reign of Moctezuma II, the ninth king of Tenochtitlan |  |
| ca. 1510 CE |  | A distinctive Inca ceramic vessel decorated with geometric polychrome called *aryballos* appears throughout the empire. |
| 1519 CE | Hernán Cortés arrives in Tenochtitlan. |  |
| 1520 CE | King Cuitahuac dies from the first smallpox epidemic to hit the empire. Cuauhtémoc, the eleventh and last king of the city, reigns. |  |
| 1521 CE | Fall of Tenochtitlan. Cuauhtémoc surrenders to Hernán Cortés. |  |
| 1522 CE |  | Rebuilding of the city by the Spanish as Mexico City, capital of New Spain. |
| 1525 CE | Cuauhtémoc is murdered by the Spaniards. |  |
| 1527 CE | The Inca ruler Huayna Capac dies suddenly of a foreign disease while in Quito. War breaks out between his sons Huascar and Atawallpa over succession. |  |
| 1532 CE | Pizarro arrives in the coastal town of Tumbes (Peru). The Spaniard captures Atawallpa and imprisons him in Cajamarca. |  |
| 1533 CE | The Spanish executes Atawallpa. |  |
| 1534 CE | Cuzco is invaded by the Spaniards. |  |
| 1535 CE | Lima, known as the Ciudad de los Reyes (City of Kings) is founded by Pizarro and established as the capital of the Viceroyalty of Peru. |  |