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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.  |   |