**Peoples and Civilizations of the Americas, from 1200 B.C.E**

1. Olmec- The first Mesoamerican civilization (1200-400 BCE); central Mexico
2. Chavin- The first major urban civilization in South America. (900-250 B.C.E). Became politically and economically dominant in a densely populated region that included two distinct ecological zones, the Peruvian coastal plain and the Andean foothills.
3. Llama- A hoofed animal indigenous to the Andes Mountains in South America. It was the only domesticated beast of burden in the Americas before the arrival of Europeans. Provided meat and wool.
4. Teotihuacan- A powerful city-state in central Mexico. (100-750 C.E). Its population was more than 125,000 at its peak in 450 CE.
5. Chinampas- “Floating Gardens”; Raised fields constructed along lakeshores in Mesoamerica to increase agricultural yields. Permitted year-round agriculture- because of subsurface and irrigation and resistance to frost- thus played a crucial role in sustaining the region’s growing population.
6. Maya- Mesoamerican civilization concentrated in Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula and in Guatemala and Honduras but never unified into a single empire. Major contributions were mathematics, astronomy, and development of the calendar (250-1400 CE). Had a writing system which described their religion and rulers.
7. Toltecs- Powerful postclassic state in central Mexico that influenced much of Mesoamerica (900-1175CE). Aztecs later claimed ties to this civilization.
8. Anasazi- Navajo word meaning “ancient ones”; Important culture of what is now the southwest United States.
9. Cheifdom- Form of political organization with rule by a hereditary leader who held power over a collection of villages and towns.
10. Ayllu- Andean lineage group or kin-based community.
11. Mita- Andean labor system based on shared obligations to help kinsmen and work on behalf of rulers or religious organizations.
12. Moche- Civilization of north coast of Peru. (200-700 C.E)
13. Tiwanku- Name of capital city and empire centered on the region near Lake Titicaca in modern Bolivia.
14. Chimú- A powerful civilization that developed on the northern coast of Peru from about 1200 to its conquest by expanding Inka empire in the 1470s.
15. Wari- Andean civilization culturally linked to Tiwanku, perhaps beginning as a colony of Tiwanku.

*“A diverse environment, requires diverse solutions to water.”*