

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE FIRST GLOBAL AGE

I. African Civilizations- Africa

on the continent. Several civilizations rose and fell between 800-1600. West Africa is built powerful kingdoms at Mali, led by Mansa Musa, a very powerful leader, and Songhai as they gained control over trade routes. In East Africa, the kingdom of Axum became a center of international trade. Africa played an important role in the global trading network. Trade with the people of Europe and the Middle East as well as India encouraged a new exchange of ideas between Africa and other lands. During this time, Islam became established in various parts of Africa. Still, traditional patterns of village, family, and religious life remained important through most of Africa.

A. Geography- ranges from savanna, or grassy plains, to deserts and rain forests along the equator. They have natural harbors as well as natural barriers.

B. Swahili- Arabic words mixed with Bantu formed the African language

II. Mesoamerican Civilizations- When Paleolithic hunters migrated to North America over the land bridge, they spread out throughout North and South America. They learned to domesticate animals and cultivate food and populations increased. Complex societies developed called Pre-Columbian Civilizations because it was before Christopher Columbus came to the Americas.

A. Olmecs- built pyramid like temples, invented a calendar, system of writing, and very religious

B. Mayas- complex agricultural society with large city-states in southern Mexico and Central America. Had a social hierarchy, pyramid temples with drawings of their history, and used hieroglyphics as well as numbers including zero. Warfare and overpopulation may have caused their decline.

C. Aztecs- built the capital of Tenochtitlan (present day Mexico City) in the valley of Mexico. Fierce warriors that used conquests and alliances becoming very wealthy and powerful. Used slaves on their farms. Polytheistic religion, schools, accurate calendar, could set bones and care for teeth. Converted swampy waters into farmland by building chinampas, or artificial islands made of earth piled onto reed mats that were anchored to the shallow bed of lakes (like floating gardens)

D. Incas- in the Andes Mountains down the Pacific Coast of South America. Had a centralized government which ruled many separate conquered peoples. Polytheistic, built bridges, tunnels, and steps to pass through mountainous terrain. The Capital was Cuzco where a huge temple was built to the sun god which was lined in gold. Used terraces or stone walls to farm along the mountains. Kept records using quipus, or a system of knotted colored strings. Performed surgery and used herbs as antiseptics.