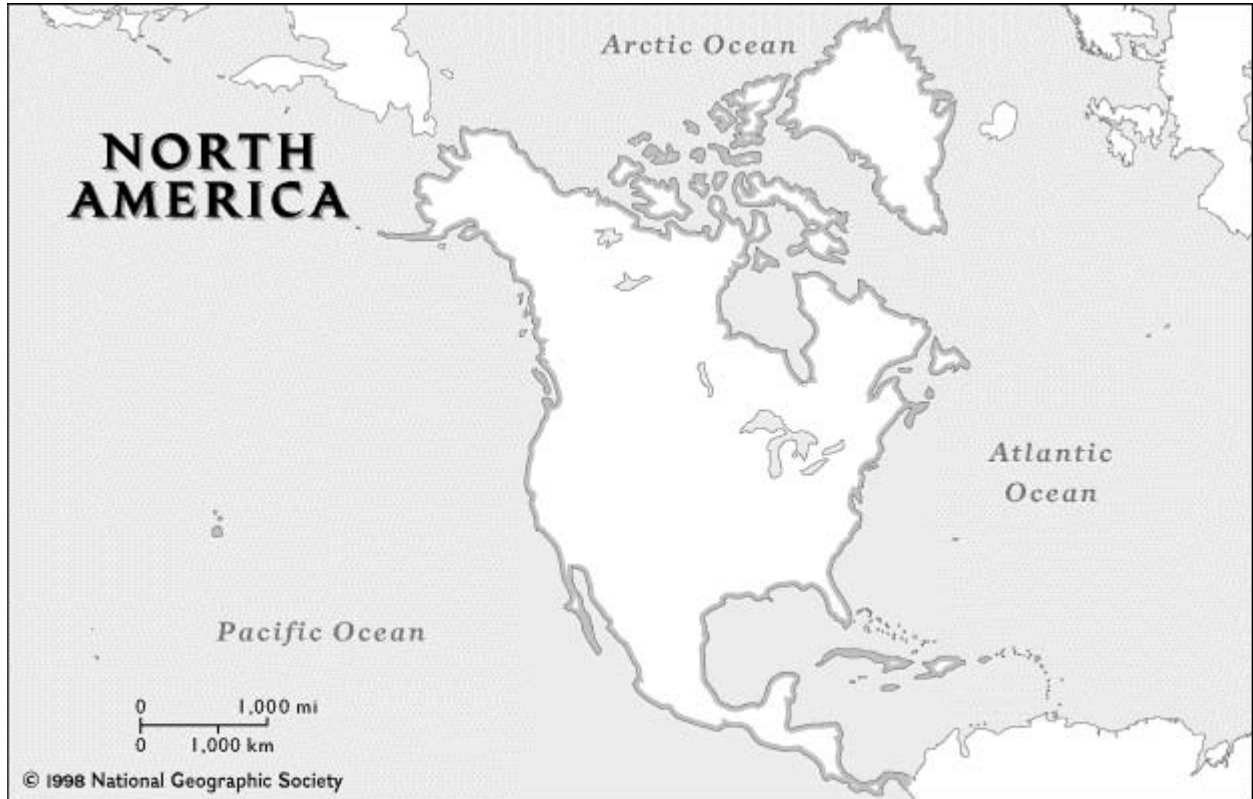


MESOAMERICA ANSWER SHEET

Use The History of Mesoamerica website

(<http://www.elbalero.gob.mx/kids/history/html/conquista/home.html>) to answer the following questions.

1. Shade in Mesoamerica on the map of North America below.



For more maps of the world, continents, countries, and states, visit nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions.

Central and Southern Mexico and the northern part of Central America should be shaded.

2. Why is the term *Discovery of America* a problem? What else could we call this period in history?

The Europeans say they discovered America because they didn't know it existed when Christopher Columbus arrived, but the indigenous people had been living in America for thousands of years. They were really the first people who discovered America, if we think of their point of view.

Other ways to describe this period include: the European discovery of America or the arrival of the Europeans in America.

3. Use information from the *Preclassic Period* and *Classic Period* sections of the timeline from the website shown above to put the following events in order. Be sure to also click on any links you see in these sections to gather more information.

Preclassic Period

Write a number on each line, from 1-5, to show the correct order of events during the *Preclassic Period*. Write the approximate year where asked.

- 2 The population of Mesoamerica grew quickly.
- 1 Agrarian villages gradually evolved to the first great civilization of Mesoamerica, the Olmec culture. Approximate year: 1200 BC
- 3 The people believed in an afterlife.
- 4 Society was divided into various groups: governors, artisans, and peasants.
- 5 Techniques to make clothes, ropes, nets, and baskets advanced quickly.

Classic Period

Write a number on each line, from 1-5, to show the correct order of events during the *Classic Period*. Write the approximate year where asked.

- 3 Temples, pyramids, tombs, and palaces showed the importance of religion.
- 4 Complicated writing systems were developed.
- 5 The Zapotecs abandoned Monte Alban, but they continued living in the valleys of Oaxaca. Approximate year: AD 800
- 1 Maya, Zapotec, and Teotihuacan cultures flourished.
- 2 Social organization became more complicated.

4. Now pick one of the periods above and make a timeline for it on the back of this page. Make a straight line in the middle of the page. Above the line, copy each event in order, with the year if available. Under the line, make a picture with a caption for each event, showing an interesting detail.

Make sure the timelines are done neatly, in the correct order, and include appropriate illustrations with captions.