

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Study Sheet: Latin American Art

Maya culture had one of the earliest written systems used to record beliefs and events.

What was the main purpose of Maya and Aztec art?

The main purpose of art in the Maya and Aztec cultures was to represent kings, powerful individuals and rulers, and to maintain status and social hierarchies.

Why were Aztecs concerned with human sacrifice and maintaining social hierarchy?

They believed that there was a natural order that, if disrupted, would bring disaster. Disaster would also occur if the gods were not honored with human sacrifices.

For each group:

|         | List a major work, medium, or style:   | Describe the work, medium, or style:                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Paracas | Textiles, woven arts                   | These textiles often depicted animals or geometric patterns. The medium of textile weaving requires careful organization and execution. It is a ritualized process.                                                                |
| Nazca   | "Nazca lines," or large-scale drawings | These enormous drawings were made by a simple but sophisticated system that required organization. They were possibly created for gods to look upon from above, as part of a star calendar, or as part of ritualistic practices.   |
| Moche   | Figural representations                | These figural vessels were made to pay homage to water (the life-providing liquid) and war. They are rare examples of realistic-looking figural representations. Moche vessels are characterized by the round spout/handle on top. |
| Inca    | Machu Picchu                           | This breathtaking site is a series of buildings that blend seamlessly into the mountains and valleys. It was built to be both public and private, and it allows for stunning views of the surrounding nature.                      |