Chapter 9: The Americas

Section 3

Self-Check

Listen to the audio and define the following key terms:

Olmec

Chavín

Maya

Toltec

Aztec

chinampas

Inca

Quechua
Listen to the audio and answer the following questions:

1. In what ways did surplus food produced by farming help civilizations grow in Mexico and Peru?

2. How did the Inca and the Aztec differ in their views of how to rule?
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Self-Check Answer Key

Olmec: Earliest culture of Mexico, which began in about 1200 B.C.

Chavín: Earliest culture of Andean South America

Maya: One of the most advanced early people in the Americas, who occupied the Yucatán Peninsula

Toltec: People who invaded central Mexico from the north in about A.D. 800

Aztec: Wandering warriors who gained control of central Mexico in about A.D. 1200

chinampas: Raised fields made by the Aztec with mud taken from the bottoms of lakes

Inca: Empire in the Andes Mountains that included most of the west coast of South America

Quechua: Inca language spoken today by millions in South America

quipu: Series of knotted strings used as a memory aid by the Inca

1. Surplus food produced by farming in Mexico and Peru allowed the growth of large ceremonial and trading centers. It also allowed the development of classes of people who did not farm, including the nobles, priests, and artisans. It freed labor to build great pyramids and other structures.

2. The Inca and the Aztec differed in their views of how to rule people they had conquered. The Inca brought conquered people into one imperial culture, while the Aztec dominated conquered people using its military.