Middle America and the Caribbean

Trincheras

Location: Northwestern Mexico (Sonora region).
Description: Sedentary or semi-sedentary horticulturalists of the desert and coastal regions of northwest Mexico. Interacted with pueblo regions of the southwest U.S. and may have traded Pacific shell with them.
OAT code: 1475 OWC code: NU77

Huatabampo

Location: Northwestern Mexico (Sonora region).
Description: Sedentary or semi-sedentary horticulturalists of the coastal and desert regions of the Sonora region of northwestern Mexico.
OAT code: 1480 OWC code: NU75

Coahuila

Location: Northeastern Mexico, southern Texas.
Description: Nomadic, desert-dwelling hunter / gatherers with a very low population density.
OAT code: 1485 OWC code: NU80

Early Mesoamerican Archaic

Location: Mesoamerica.
Description: Nomadic hunter / gatherers subsisting on localized, seasonal resources.
OAT code: 1505 OWC code: NY30

Highland Mesoamerican Archaic

Location: Highland Mesoamerica.
Description: Semi-sedentary hunter / gatherers with some domesticated plants used seasonally. Reliance on domesticates increases during this tradition, as does sedentism.
OAT code: 1510 OWC code: NY30

Lowland Mesoamerican Archaic

Location: Lowland Mesoamerica in Belize and Mexico.
Description: Semi-sedentary hunter / gatherers with some domesticated plants used seasonally. Reliance on domesticates increases during this tradition, as does sedentism.
OAT code: 1512 OWC code: NY50

Highland Mesoamerican Early Preclassic

Location: Highland Mesoamerica.
Description: Sedentary village horticulturalists with a simple, decentralized political organization.
OAT code: 1515 OWC code: NY41
Highland Mesoamerican Late Preclassic  
*Years BP:* 2600 - 1700

*Location:* Highland Mesoamerica.

*Description:* Sedentary village horticulturalists living in politically centralized societies. Some urban centers are present late in this tradition. Ranking and/or stratification is present.

*OAT code:* 1520  
*OWC code:* NY42

Preclassic Maya  
*Years BP:* 3800 - 1850

*Location:* Lowland Mesoamerica in Mexico, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Guatemala.

*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists living in villages and small cities. Political centralization increases during the period. Ranking and/or stratification is present.

*OAT code:* 1522  
*OWC code:* NY52

Olmec  
*Years BP:* 3400 - 2100

*Location:* Gulf Coast of Mexico east of Veracruz to near the southern edge of Yucatan.

*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists of the Gulf Coast. Political and religious centers present. Unique iconography and artifact styles appear and spread across central Mesoamerica.

*OAT code:* 1525  
*OWC code:* NU95

West Mexico Classic  
*Years BP:* 1800 - 1100

*Location:* Western Mexico.

*Description:* Regional states of highly varying size and political centralization, but with widely shared iconography and artifact styles.

*OAT code:* 1530  
*OWC code:* NU78

Southern Mexican Highlands Classic  
*Years BP:* 1700 - 1300

*Location:* Valley of Oaxaca and surrounding highland valleys of southern Mexico.

*Description:* Large, regional states of highland Mexico.

*OAT code:* 1535  
*OWC code:* NU85

Central Mexico Classic  
*Years BP:* 2100 - 1300

*Location:* Valley of Mexico and surrounding highland valleys in north-central Mexico.

*Description:* Large, regional states of highland Mexico.

*OAT code:* 1540  
*OWC code:* NU92

Gulf Coast Classic  
*Years BP:* 2100 - 800

*Location:* Gulf Coast of Mesoamerica.

*Description:* Localized states with a common iconography and artifact style.

*OAT code:* 1545  
*OWC code:* NU98
Classic Maya

Years BP: 2100 - 1100

Location: Lowland Mesoamerica in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.
Description: Localized but interacting states based on sophisticated lowland agriculture.
OAT code: 1550  OWC code: NY53

Postclassic Maya

Years BP: 1100 - 400

Location: Lowland Mesoamerica in Honduras, Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala.
Description: Small militaristic states.
OAT code: 1560  OWC code: NY54

West Mexico Postclassic

Years BP: 1100 - 480

Location: Western Mexico.
Description: Small, militaristic regional states, many unified by the Tarascan empire.
OAT code: 1565  OWC code: NU76

Central Mexico Postclassic

Years BP: 1300 - 430

Location: Central highland Mexico.
Description: Large regional states which conquered and unified many smaller city-states in highland Mexico.
OAT code: 1570  OWC code: NU93

Southern Mexican Highlands Postclassic

Years BP: 1300 - 430

Location: Valley of Oaxaca and surrounding highland valleys of southern Mexico.
Description: Small, militaristic regional states.
OAT code: 1575  OWC code: NU87

Early Caribbean

Years BP: 3000 - 1000

Location: Coastal Colombia and Venezuela, islands of the West Indies.
Description: Sedentary horticulturalists maintaining a diverse economy including collected plants, fish, and shellfish. Manufactured the first pottery in the region.
OAT code: 2040  OWC code: S045

Late Caribbean

Years BP: 1000 - 500

Location: Coastal Colombia and Venezuela, islands of the West Indies.
Description: Sedentary horticulturalists and fishers living in politically centralized societies with ranking or stratification.
OAT code: 2045  OWC code: S051
Coclé

Location: Southern Panama.
Description: Sedentary horticulturalists and fishers living in large villages with a complex political organization, likely a chiefdom.

OAT code: 2145          OWC code: SB65

Chiriquí

Location: Southwestern Panama, southern Costa Rica.
Description: Sedentary horticulturalists and fishers living in large villages with a complex political organization, likely a chiefdom.

OAT code: 2150          OWC code: SA85

Paya

Location: Eastern Nicaragua, eastern Honduras.
Description: Semi-sedentary horticulturalists living in large villages, some with mounds reminiscent of the Maya region.

OAT code: 2155          OWC code: SA65

Nicoya

Location: Western Nicaragua, northwestern Costa Rica.
Description: Sedentary horticulturalists living in large villages with centralized political organization.

OAT code: 2160          OWC code: SA75