Vocabulary One: Civilizations of Mesoamerica

**MONDAY: Word Pyramids**

**DIRECTIONS**: In the space below, create a word pyramid for each term.

**EXTRA CREDIT**: Set a goal for yourself this week. What is one thing you want to improve or achieve?

**VOCABULARY**:

1. Mesoamerica  
2. Elevation  
3. Theory  
4. Civilization  
5. Ruins  
6. Polytheism  
7. Tribute  
8. Mercenary  
9. Analyze  
10. Complex

**EXAMPLE:**  
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**TUESDAY: Connections and Predictions**

**DIRECTIONS**: Rewrite each word, and write a connection – what does the word make you think of or what do you think the word means?

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|  | **Word** | **Rewrite the Word** | **Make a Connection: What does the word make you think of or what do you think it means?** |
| **1** | *Mesoamerica* | Mesoamerica | A place in America. |
| **2** | *elevation* |  |  |
| **3** | *theory* |  |  |
| **4** | *civilization* |  |  |
| **5** | *ruins* |  |  |
| **6** | *polytheism* |  |  |
| **7** | *tribute* |  |  |
| **8** | *mercenary* |  |  |
| **9** | *analyze* |  |  |
| **10** | *complex* |  |  |

**WEDNESDAY: Synonyms and Explanations**

**DIRECTIONS**: Find a SYNONYM for each word. Write an alternate (different) definition using the synonym.

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| **Word** | **Definition** | **Synonyms** Other words that can be used instead of this one. | **Picture or Example** |
| *ruins (n)* | The parts of a building or city that is left after the rest has been destroyed. | Remains |  |
| *elevation (n)* | The distance of a place above the level of the ocean (sea level), the height of a location |  |  |
| *theory (n)* | an idea that tries to explain something about life or the world (especially if it hasn’t been proven true!) |  |  |
| *civilization (n)* | A well-developed (large) society or group of people. |  |  |
| *Mesoamerica (n)* | Mesoamerica is the land area stretching from southern Mexico through Central America. | Meso = middle |  |
| *polytheism (n)* | The idea that more than one god exists\* | \**Polytheism is the idea that more than one god exists. A polytheist is a person who believes in polytheism. The word polytheistic is used to describe someone or something related to polytheism such as: The religion of Greece was polytheistic.* | |
| *tribute (n)* | A payment made by ruler or group to another ruler for protection or to show loyalty and respect. |  |  |
| *mercenary (n)* | A soldier who is paid to fight for another group or ruler. |  |  |
| *analyze (v)* | To closely study or carefully think about something to better understand it. |  |  |
| *complex (adj)* | When something is difficult to understand or has many different parts |  |  |

**THURSDAY**: **Writing a Story or Summary**

**DIRECTIONS:** Write a paragraph that uses at least 8 vocabulary words. The paragraph must have at least 6 sentences.

*Ideas: write a creative story or write a summary of what you have learned in class.*

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**EXTRA CREDIT**: On a separate sheet of paper, attach a reflection. Think about your goal for this week. Did you achieve it? What was helpful to you? What was difficult? What can you do better next week?