



Any Age

Olmec Civilization

Express Lapbook

Mini Lapbook, Study Guides, Web Links, Crafts, and Activities



A Journey Through Learning
www.ajourneythroughlearning.com

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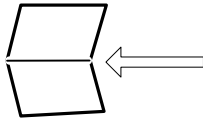
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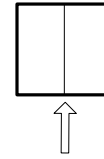
SAMPLE PAGE

Things to Know

Hamburger Fold-Fold horizontally



Hotdog Fold-Fold vertically

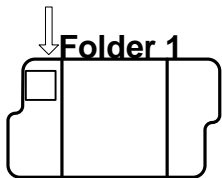


Dotted Lines-These are the cutting lines.

Accordion Fold-This fold is like making a paper fan. Fold on the first line so that title is on top. Turn over and fold on next line so that title is on top again. Turn over again and fold again on the next line so that title is on top. Continue until all folds are done.

Cover Labels-Most of the booklets that are folded look nicer with a label on top instead of just a blank space. They will be referred to as “cover label.”

How do I know where to place each template in the folder?

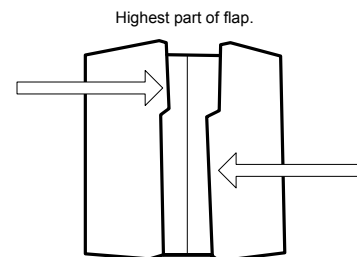
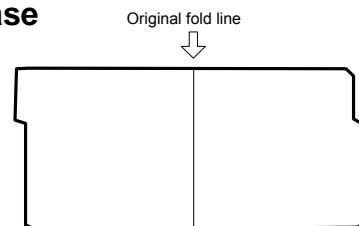


This placement key tells you the template goes in the first folder at the top of the left flap.

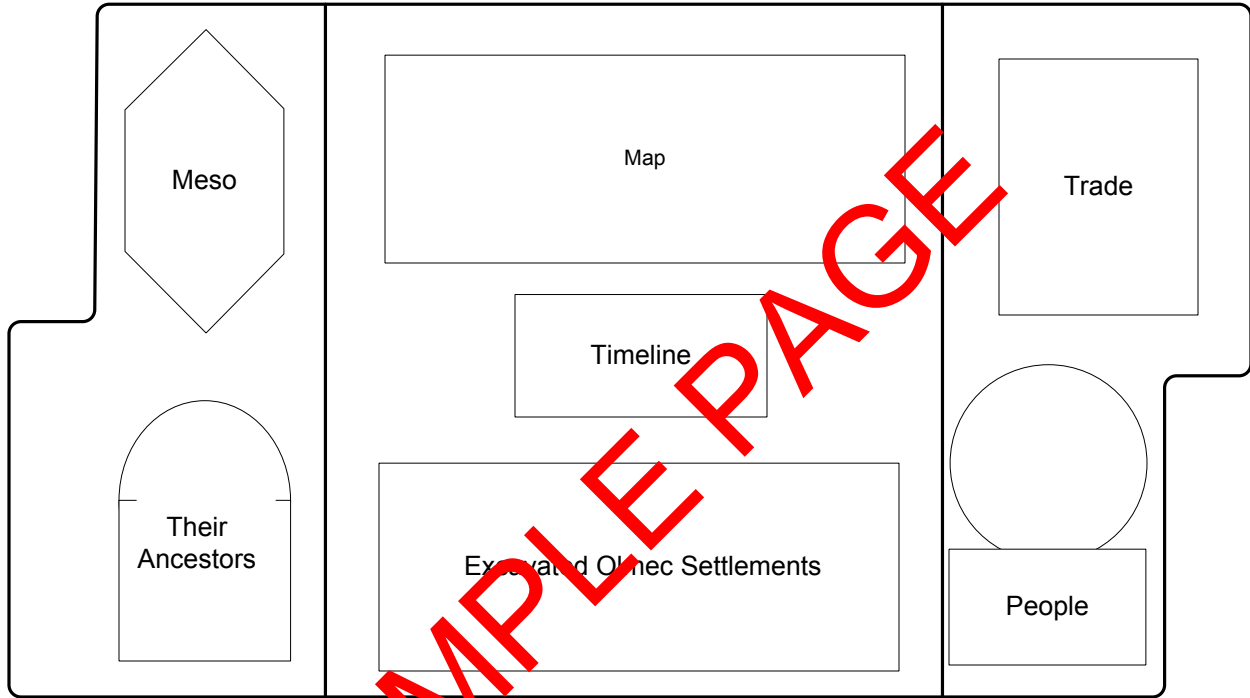
Folding a Lapbook Base

Gather the number of folders required for the project. Fold them flat as seen here.

For each folder, fold the left and right sides inward toward the original line to create two flaps. Crease so that the highest part of each flap is touching the original line. It is important not to let the two flaps overlap. *You may want to take a ruler and run it down each crease to make it sharper.*



Placement Key



Complete the Scene

Cut out the scene on the dotted line. Glue on to the front of your lapbook. Draw a statue like the Olmecs built.

Olmec Civilization

SAMPLE PAGE

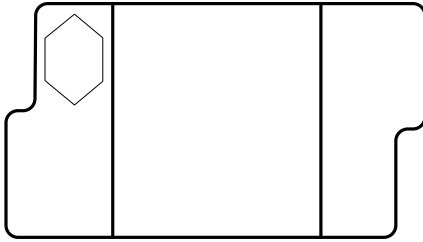
Mesoamerica

The part of the American continent between the land of central Mexico down to parts of Honduras is known as Mesoamerica. “Meso” is a word that means middle. The land of Mesoamerica is in the middle of the American continent.

In this land, a series of civilizations flourished in ancient times. Around 1500 BC the people who populated this area started to abandon the wandering life and began to settle down in permanent settlements or villages. These people discovered how to farm. Their main crops consisted of corn, chili peppers, squash, beans and cotton. They learned to weave cloth and make pottery. Their villages were small and seemed to have kept to themselves without much contact between villages. Around the year 1200 BC a big change seem to have taken place. Around this time, pyramid-like structures were built and villages became more like towns with buildings and a large concentration of people. This seems to indicate the presence of a more complex society. This civilization, which lived and ruled in this period, is known as the Olmec.

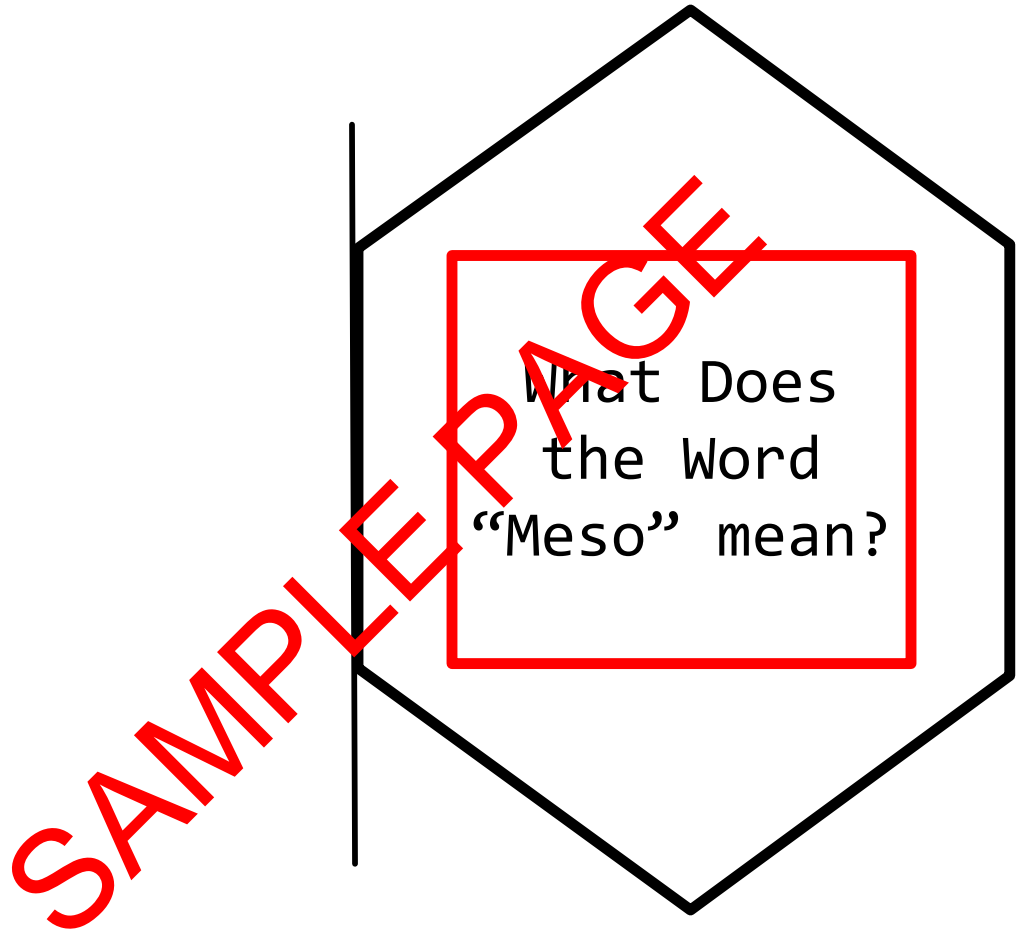
After the Olmec civilization crumbled, the Mayans arose. The Mayans had much in common with the Olmecs but were more advanced in their intellectual endeavors. They developed a writing system, a complex calendar, and were very good at mathematics. At the time the Spanish conquistadors arrived, the ruling people were the Aztecs. The Aztecs managed to build an impressive empire.

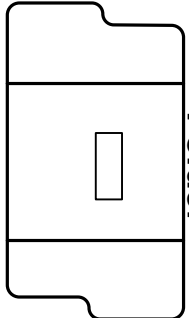
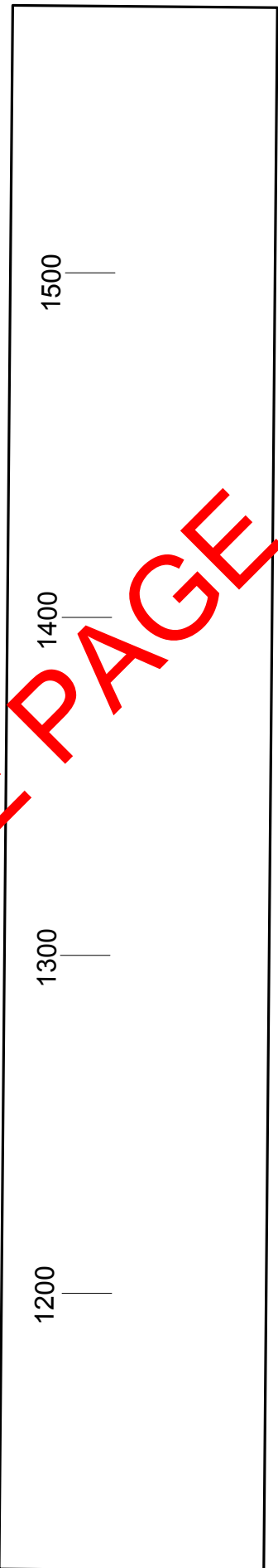
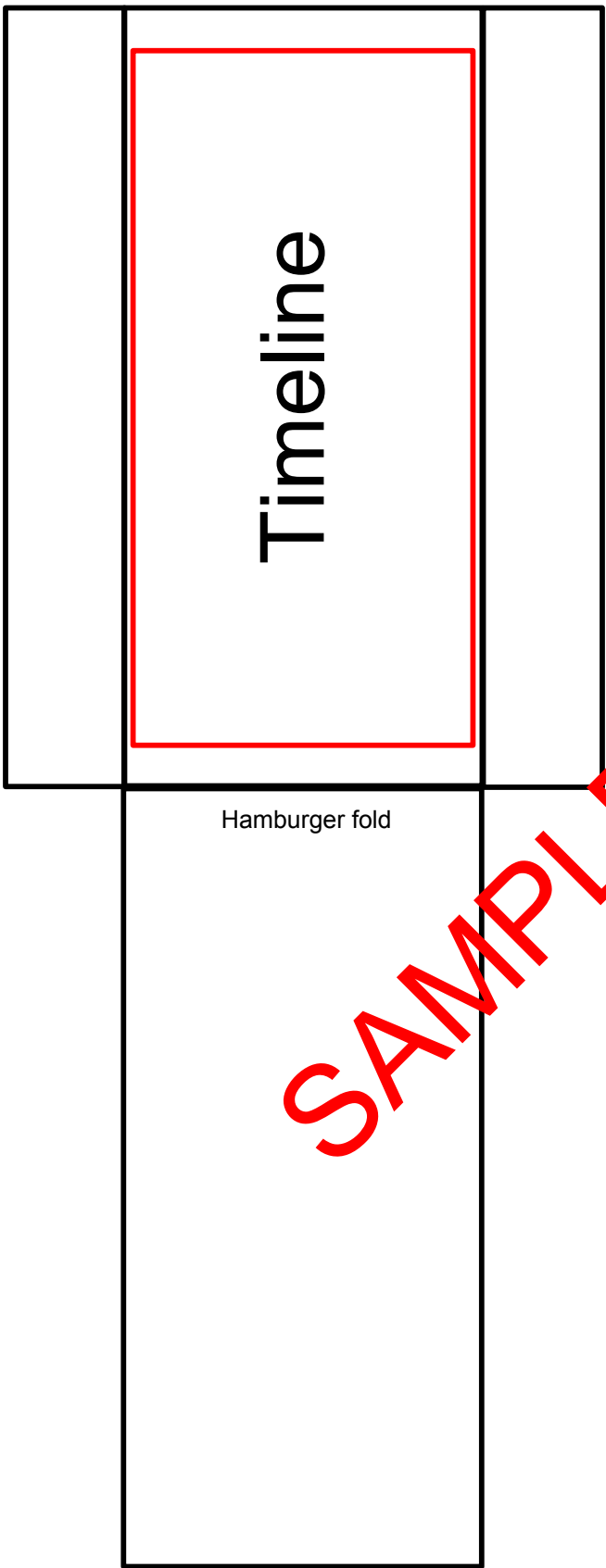
Folder 1



Fold your paper in half. Cut around the booklet. DO NOT CUT ON THE FOLD. Glue into lapbook.

Directions: Answer the question inside the booklet.





Folder

Cut out booklet as one piece. Fold the back bottom section up in back, and then fold the flaps back and glue to make a pocket. Cut out the timeline strip. Fold and store in pocket.
Directions: On the timeline, enter other events that were going on in history during this time.

SAMPLE PAGE

The Olmec

The Olmec people were the first to create a civilization in Mesoamerica. Not much is known about them. Many scientists think the Olmec came from Asia a long, long time ago. Their ancestors were hunters and gatherers who, around the year 1500 BC, settled down in the area that is now Mexico and parts of Central America.

Archeologists have excavated several sites of Olmec settlements. The main sites are La Venta and San Lorenzo.

Here they have come across large earthen pyramids, enormous platforms, and colossal heads carved out of stone. These huge heads are impressive! Nobody knows for sure what these huge heads represented. It is believed that they are images of the Olmec's powerful rulers.

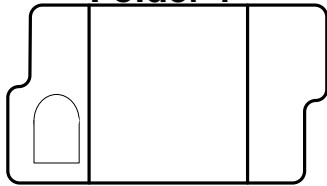
The Olmec seem to have created an elaborate system of trade. Evidence seems to indicate that the Olmec traded with other people from regions as far as what is nowadays Costa Rica. They imported or brought in basalt (a volcanic rock), obsidian (another rock), and iron ore (a mineral). They traded in jade (a stone in a beautiful shade of green). They carved jade into religious objects, masks, rings, and necklaces.

The Olmec have been called the Mother Culture of Mesoamerica because, it is believed, they had a great influence to the rest of the important civilizations that follow. The Mayans and the Aztecs, as well of other cultures of the area, owe a lot to the Olmec people.

For more information on the Olmec go to this website:

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/southamerica/before1500/history/olmec.htm>

Folder 1



Cut out each piece. Fasten together at the top with a brad (or staple). Glue into lapbook.

Directions: Inside of the booklet, write or draw what you have learned.

