Mesoamerica
Outcome: The Earliest Americans

The Earliest Americans

1. North and South America
a. Stretches unbroken ________ miles
b. Originally connected to Asia by a _____ ______ called ____________
c. Most inhabitants (or ancestors) __________ this way
d. Others traveled by _________

2. Peopling of America
a. Started arriving after the _____ ______ (1.9 million – 10,000 B.C.)
b. Ice Age __________ sea levels (hence Beringia) and allowed wild ______ ______ from Siberia to migrate to the Americas
c. People followed the herds and became first __________ (__________ and __________)
d. Some say earliest humans found in North or South America date back to ______ B.C. or ______ B.C.
e. Evidence? ________ found in New Mexico date back to ______ B.C.
f. 12,000-10,000 years ago the Ice Age ________ - Ice melted and Beringia was ______________________
g. Agriculture began about _________ B.C.
h. With agriculture came _____________ ______________

3. Mesoamerica
a. ________
   i. Located in the jungles of __________ around 1200 B.C.
   ii. Often called Mesoamerica’s “___________ ____________”
   iii. Large ________ discovered in 1860 (p.244)
   iv. Built ________, altars, & colossal __________ ________
   v. Olmec thrived from ________ -- _________ B.C.
   vi. Believed to have worshipped variety of nature gods including the __________ ________
   vii. Collapse: _________. Possibilities include decline by ________ ________ or possibly that the Olmec began destruction of their monuments when their leaders died
b. Zapotec
   i. Developed around time of declining Olmec in ___________ Valley
   ii. Oaxaca Valley has fertile soil, mild climate, and enough ________ to support _______________
   iii. By 500 B.C. they had created early forms of _______ and a ______________ system
   iv. First real urban center in Mesoamerica: _______ ________, which at its peak had ___________ people
      --Paved stones
      --Towering Pyramids, temples, palaces
   v. Decline of Zapotec is also a ______________

c. Olmec and Zapotec Legacy
   i. Influence powerful _______
   ii. Olmec left notions of planned ______________ centers & some glyph writing
   iii. Zapotec leave __________________ & calendar system
   iv. Zapotec are America’s first _______ ___________

4. Other
   a. __________, __________, and __________ build centers in South America
   b. Nazca lines (p.248)

Result: The Earliest Americans left a lasting legacy on North and South America that would eventually influence two of Mesoamerica’s greatest cultures: ________ and the ___________.

Constructive Response Question
How did geography impact the emergence and rise of the civilizations in the Americas?