

## Unit 2: Assignment 7: The Role of Geography

1. In the space below, provide a definition for concept of a *central government*. What evidence is there to support the view that the Olmec had a strong central government? If you use a web resource to find the above definition or answer the question following, cite the sites using Chicago style. Format your citation using the the *Citation Machine* (<http://www.citationmachine.net/>).

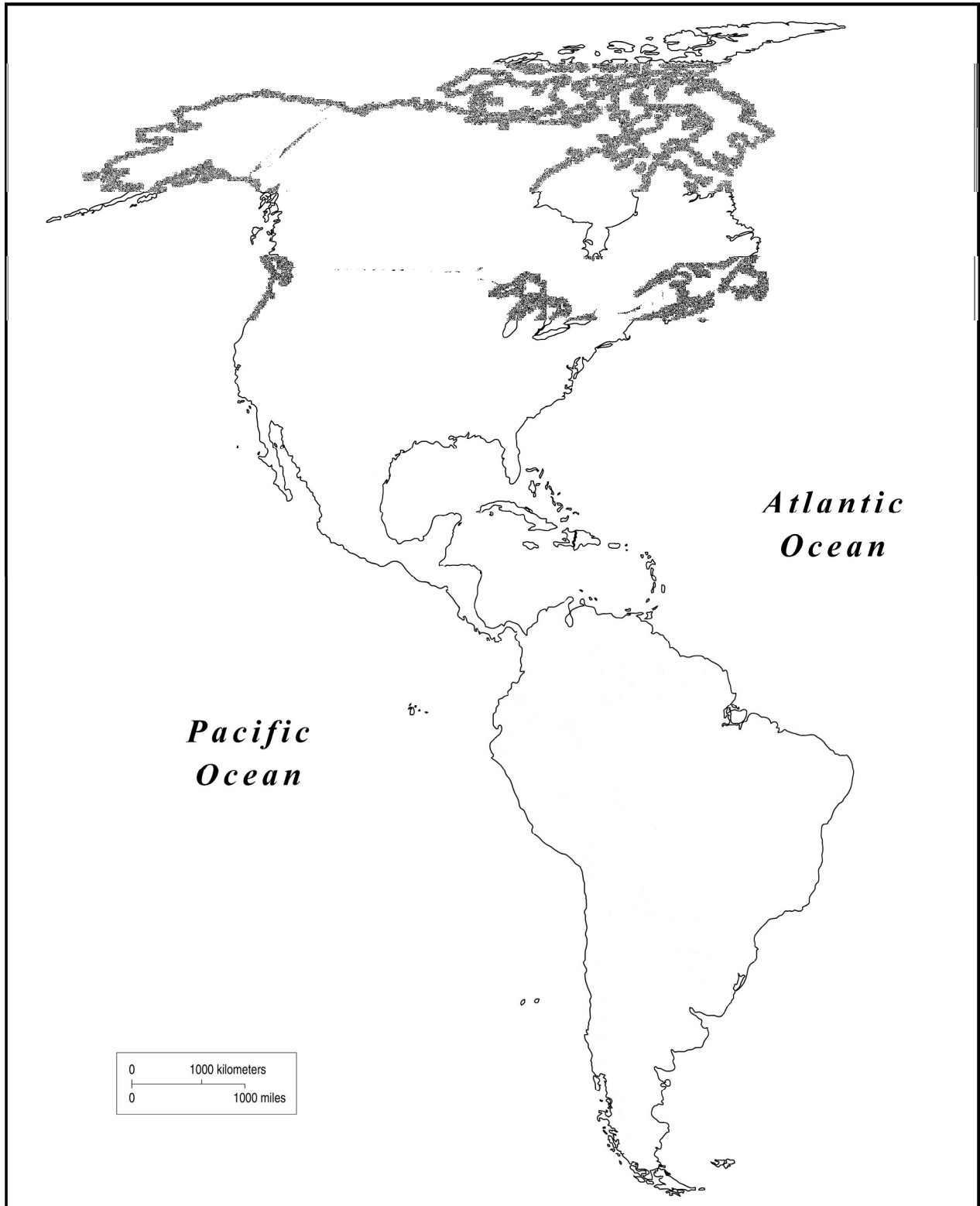
**Central Government Definition:**

**Definition Citation:**

**What evidence is there supporting the view that the Olmec had a strong central government?**

**Answer Citation:**

2. Ask your teacher for a blank outline map of North, Central and South America. Use a combination of the Internet and this reading to show—using both dates and arrows indicating the direction knowledge of agriculture spread throughout the Western hemisphere.



4. In small groups, discuss the role geography plays in the appearance and development of civilizations. Be sure to answer the following focus questions:



5. Jigsaw Activity

a). Form into expert groups of four. As a group select one of the following civilizations to study: Egypt, Minoa, Maya, Aztec, Inca, and the Iroquois. In your expert groups, conduct research and record your answers to the following focus questions:

- Where and when did your civilization exist?
- What type of government did it have?
- What were the main spiritual beliefs, customs and practices?
- What types of technology did your civilization invent and/or use?
- What were the main types of jobs and occupations men and women worked?
- What roles did children, men and women have?
- What methods of recording and communicating information did your topic civilization use?

**Note:** be sure to keep track of the URLs and/or print sources you use to draw your research from.

b). Use the chart below to organize your information. Meet in your expert groups to discuss your findings.

c). Form into blended groups—one person per civilization—and share your research teaching one another about each civilization. Use the chart below to complete the information gathering task.

d). After completing the task described above fill out the small group rubric under the chart. This rubric measures your personal performance for the small group work completed.

| Questions/Civilization                      |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Where and when did your civilization exist? |  |  |  |  |
| What type of government did it have?        |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>What were the main spiritual beliefs, customs and practices?</p>      |  |  |  |  |
| <p>What types of technology did your civilization invent and/or use?</p> |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| What were the main types of jobs and occupations men and women worked? |  |  |  |  |
| What roles did children, men and women have?                           |  |  |  |  |

|   |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p>What methods of recording and communicating information did your topic civilization use?</p>   |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Category/Performance</b>   |  |  |  |  |
| <p><b>Quality of Focus</b><br/>Focus is defined as your capacity to follow directions (written and/or oral), complete tasks, meet deadlines, and remain on-task.</p>  | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>I followed all directions completing tasks as required and outlined by deadline.</p> <p>I remained on-task for the entire duration of the group activity.</p>   | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>I struggled at times with directions but completed all tasks as required and outlined by deadline.</p> <p>I remained on-task for most of the group activity.</p>  | <p><b>1</b></p> <p>I struggled at times with directions and I did not complete all tasks as required and outlined by deadline.</p> <p>I was off-task for a good proportion of the group activity.</p>          |  |
| <b>3</b>  |  |  |  |  |
| <p><b>Quality of Participation</b><br/>Participation is defined as your capacity to contribute meaningfully to the success of the group through active listening, asking questions, and sharing your own opinions and insights.</p> | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>I contributed meaningfully to the group's success by listening actively, e.g. listening to understand and potentially ask a clarifying question.</p> <p>I asked two or more questions while also sharing my own opinions and answers.</p> | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>I contributed meaningfully to the group's success by mostly listening actively, e.g. listening to understand and potentially ask a clarifying question.</p> <p>I asked one question while also sharing my own opinions and answers.</p> | <p><b>1</b></p> <p>I did not listen actively, e.g. I didn't always listen to understand or to create a clarifying question.</p> <p>I did not ask any questions or share any of my own opinions or answers.</p> |  |

6. If you had the opportunity to travel back in time and visit one of the civilizations presented in this unit, which one would go to? Use the space below to explain your reasoning.