A. Terms, People, and Places

Write a short definition for each term.

1. Mesoamerica
2. maize
3. stela
4. chinampas
5. tribute

B. Main Ideas

Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank provided.

6. What geographic feature dominates the western Americas?
   a. mountain chains
   b. deserts
   c. woodlands
   d. fertile plains

7. The Olmecs, the earliest American civilization, started in the
   a. western Sierra Madre.
   b. Yucatán Peninsula in southern Mexico.
   c. Amazon rain forest.
   d. tropical forests along the Gulf of Mexico.

8. Out of a need to hold ceremonies on time, many Maya priests became expert
   a. scribes.
   b. mathematicians and astronomers.
   c. rulers and warriors.
   d. sculptors.

9. What is one way in which Aztec society differed from Maya society?
   a. The Aztecs had a king for each city-state, rather than an emperor.
   b. The Aztecs worshiped one god, while the Maya were polytheistic.
   c. The Aztecs lived in the Yucatán, while the Maya lived in central Mexico.
   d. The Aztecs had a united empire, rather than separate states.

10. The Aztecs sacrificed humans because they believed
    a. it appeased the gods.
    b. it helped to heal their warriors.
    c. it gave the sun strength to rise.
    d. human blood helped their crops to grow.