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02/06/2012	

RIO HONDO COLLEGE - DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES Humanities 125 Introduction to Mexican Culture (3 units)

Spring 2012 – (16 Week Track) CRN-30823 Instructor: Santiago Andres Garcia, MA / SGarcia@RioHondo.edu

Formative/Pre-Classic Olmec (1500-400 B.C.) Word Search & Maps

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Mesoamerica – Geographic area of Middle America prior to the conquest of the America's. **Formative Period** – Period of Mesoamerica dating 1500 to 400 B.C.

Gulf Coast of Mexico – Home to Olmec's, Mesoamerica's first complex culture.

Teosinte – Wild grass of the America's known to have been domesticated into maize (corn).

Maize (corn) – One of three (corn, squash, and beans) primary staple crops of the Americas.

Olmec – First complex culture of the America's well known for advances in art and science.

Colossal Head – Ton-heavy heads carved from basalt stone to resemble the profiles of rulers.

Chapopote (Tar) – Natural substance found in seepages across the Gulf Coast of Mexico. **Mano** and **Metate** – Grinding stone used to mash corn, typically made of basalt or river rock.

Basalt – Volcanic rock crafted by the Olmec to create colossal heads.

Greenstone – A prized mineral rock used by Olmec artisans to produce ceremonial carvings.

Figurine – A miniature portrayal of a person, crafted from greenstone or clay.

Pottery – Bowls, dishes, cups, ladles, tecomates, and ritual ware made from clay.

Arroyo Pesquero - Sacred Olmec site (a river) where Olmec people made offerings.

San Lorenzo – A major Olmec center where elite Olmec lived and artisans crafted basalt.

La Venta – A secondary Olmec site that after the fall of San Lorenzo came into power.

El Remolino – A secondary "poor" Olmec site in the Gulf Coast of Mexico.

El Manati – Olmec site with a naturally occurring spring where child sacrifice was performed. **Avian Serpent** – The Ancestor of Mesoamerica's Feathered Serpent, a supernatural deity.

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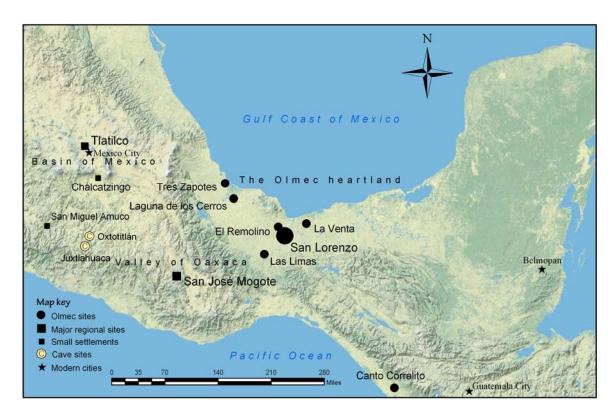
Obsidian – Important volcanic rock used by the Olmec to produce useful items and weapons.

Quetzal – A species of bird with long blue-green feathers held in high regard by Mesoamericans.

Mojarra - A fish common in the rivers of the Gulf Coast of Mexico, a primary source of food.



The area of Mesoamerica identified by 21st century countries.



Map of Early and Middle Formative Mesoamerica (1500-400 B.C.).