Teacher Name: Mr. Hendersen

Name of Class: Social Studies

Period #: All

Assignments: Week 3:

* Reading Olmec Culture
* Weekly News Updates

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: **Hendersen**

Class Name/Subject: **7th Grade Social Studies**

Period # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Attached:

Olmec Culture Worksheet

Olmec Culture Reading Assignment (from the text book)

Reading Answer Sheet

News Summary Sheet

**Reading Instructions:** Please find the missing words on the Olmec Culture Worksheet (numbered) and write or type them in on the corresponding number on the worksheet. The answers can be found by reading the attached reading assignment.

1.2

**1.2 Olmec Culture**

After a long search, the foreman has finally found the right rock. It’s huge and heavy. He directs his men to begin their work. Their task: to haul the rock 50 miles through the jungle to the city where an artist will carve it into a sculpture. Their challenge: to move the rock without using a wheeled cart or animals. Welcome to the world of the Olmec.

Main Idea:

The Olmec civilization that arose in Mesoamerica was one of the region’s earliest civilizations and influenced later cultures.

**OLMEC CITIES**

The **(1)** (AHL-mehk) culture began along **(2)**’s Gulf Coast around **(3)**. The development of this culture led to the birth of **(4)**’s first civilization.   
  
Like the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China, the Olmec emerged on the **(5)** of rivers. Heavy rains caused these rivers to flood and deposit fertile **(6)** on their plains. The rich soil allowed farmers to grow abundant crops. In time, the culture’s economy expanded and cities, including **(7)**, **(8)**, and **(9)**, began to develop. (See the map in Lesson 1.1.)   
  
Olmec cities contained **(10)** and temples built on earthen mounds. The Olmec also built **(11)** where athletes played a game that was a sort of combination of modern soccer and basketball. You will learn more about this game later in the chapter.   
  
**(12)** have also found extraordinary works of art in Olmec cities. Chief among these are the huge stone heads the Olmec carved out of **(13)**. The heads stand as tall as **(14)** and can weigh up to **(15)**. They are believed to represent different Olmec rulers.

**DAILY LIFE AND LEGACY**

**(16)**, including those who hauled the rocks for the stone sculptures, and **(17)** made up most of Olmec society. They were at the bottom of the civilization’s **(18)** structure. **(19)** were at the top, followed by **(20)**, **(21)**, and **(22)**. The farmers and workers lived in simple houses made of **(23)** or **(24)**. The upper classes lived in more **(25)** stone structures and wore fine clothes and precious jewelry.   
  
Archaeologists are not sure why, but around **(26)**, the Olmec civilization disappeared. However, elements of the civilization’s **(27)** can be seen in later civilizations. The Olmec had established an extensive **(28)** network. In addition to the exchange of goods, the trade routes carried Olmec **(29)** throughout Mesoamerica. As new civilizations arose, their people were influenced by

Olmec **(30)** and **(31)** practices. As a result, many archaeologists consider the Olmec to be the **(32)** of Mesoamerica.

**REVIEW & ASSESS**

**1. READING CHECK** What geographic features played a key role in the development of Olmec civilization?

**2. INTERPRET VISUALS** What does the stone head suggest about the power and authority of Olmec rulers?

**3. DRAW CONCLUSIONS**What conclusions can you draw about daily life for most of the Olmec people?

Word bank: San Lorenzo, mother culture, 10 feet, merchants, silt, La Venta, farmers, Tres Zapotes, pyramids, wood, courts, 1200 B.C., culture, Mesoamerica, archaeologists, priests, Olmec, rock, workers, Mexico, class, 20 tons, rulers, floodplains, artists, mud, elaborate, 400 B.C., legacy, trade, art, religious

# Olmec Culture

After a long search, the foreman has finally found the right rock. It’s huge and heavy. He directs his men to begin their work. Their task: to haul the rock 50 miles through the jungle to the city where an artist will carve it into a sculpture. Their challenge: to move the rock without using a wheeled cart or animals. Welcome to the world of the Olmec.

**MAIN IDEA**

The Olmec civilization that arose in Mesoamerica was one of the region’s earliest civilizations and influenced later cultures.

## OLMEC CITIES

The **Olmec** (AHL-mehk) culture began along Mexico’s Gulf Coast around 1200 B.C. The development of this culture led to the birth of Mesoamerica’s first civilization.   
  
Like the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China, the Olmec emerged on the floodplains of rivers. Heavy rains caused these rivers to flood and deposit fertile silt on their plains. The rich soil allowed farmers to grow abundant crops. In time, the culture’s economy expanded and cities, including San Lorenzo, La Venta, and Tres Zapotes, began to develop. (See the map in Lesson 1.1.)   
  
Olmec cities contained pyramids and temples built on earthen mounds. The Olmec also built courts where athletes played a game that was a sort of combination of modern soccer and basketball. You will learn more about this game later in the chapter.   
  
Archaeologists have also found extraordinary works of art in Olmec cities. Chief among these are the huge stone heads the Olmec carved out of rock. The heads stand as tall as 10 feet and can weigh up to 20 tons. They are believed to represent different Olmec rulers.

## DAILY LIFE AND LEGACY

Workers, including those who hauled the rocks for the stone sculptures, and farmers made up most of Olmec society. They were at the bottom of the civilization’s class structure. Rulers were at the top, followed by priests, merchants, and artists. The farmers and workers lived in simple houses made of wood or mud. The upper classes lived in more elaborate stone structures and wore fine clothes and precious jewelry.   
  
Archaeologists are not sure why, but around 400 B.C., the Olmec civilization disappeared. However, elements of the civilization’s legacy can be seen in later civilizations. The Olmec had established an extensive trade network. In addition to the exchange of goods, the trade routes carried Olmec culture throughout Mesoamerica. As new civilizations arose, their people were influenced by Olmec art and religious practices. As a result, many archaeologists consider the Olmec to be the **mother culture** of Mesoamerica.

## REVIEW & ASSESS

**1.READING CHECK**What geographic features played a key role in the development of Olmec civilization?

*A geographic feature that played a key role in the development of Olmec civilization includes the floodplains of rivers, where heavy rains caused rivers to flood and deposit fertile silt along the plains.*

**2.INTERPRET VISUALS** What does the stone head suggest about the power and authority of Olmec rulers?

*The head suggests that Olmec rulers were powerful and revered.*

**3.DRAW CONCLUSIONS**What conclusions can you draw about daily life for most of the Olmec people?

*Since most of the Olmec people were farmers and workers, their daily lives were probably filled with hard work and deprivation.*

Answer Sheet:

**FILL IN THE MISSING WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

**6.**

**7.**

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**9.**

**10.**

**11.**

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**26.**

**27.**

**28.**

**29.**

**30.**

**31.**

**32.**

**REVIEW & ASSESS**

1. What geographic features played a key role in the development of Olmec civilization?

2. What does the stone head suggest about the power and authority of Olmec rulers?

3. What conclusions can you draw about daily life for most of the Olmec people?

**WEEKLY NEWS UPDATES:**

* Please go to BBC World News (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world>) two or three times this week.
* Check the news for regions we have studied this year (China, Middle East, Africa, Europe, and/or your choice).
* Report on the two news items that you found most interesting and write a minimum of two sentences about each.

**News item #1:**

**News Item #2:**