

Olmec Notes
Miller Preface through Chapter 2

Key Images

Stela C from Chiapa de Corzo

Kunz Axe, Olmec, Formative, c. 1200 - 500 BCE,

Colossal Head 5, San Lorenzo, Olmec, Early Formative, c. 1200 - 900 BCE.

Offering 4, Olmec, Middle Formative, c. 900 - 400 BCE.

Las Limas Figure, Olmec, Middle Formative.

Petroglyph I, El Rey, Olmec, Middle Formative.

Key Terms

Celt

Clovis Culture

Geomancy

Hero twins

Maize

Stela

Were-jaguar

Questions to Consider

- Why are the Olmec considered the 'mother culture' of Mexico?
- What are some of the inventions that can be traced back to the Olmec?
- What attributes of the Kunz Axe are now considered classic Olmec traits?
- Where was the earliest Olmec center?
- Who is represented by the *Colossal Heads*? What features lead experts to this conclusion?
- What is the most distinctive feature of the *Wrestler*?
- What were altars such as those found at La Venta used for?
- What types of works are found at Olmec sites?
- When and why did the Olmec civilization fall?