Geographical area occupied overview!

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Objectives

• Discuss the area the Maya occupied.
• Discuss the different divisions of regions that were occupied.
THE MAYA AREA

The Maya were occupying an area referred to as the geological bridge, which is essentially the upper part of Central America and parts of Mexico.
Physical geography!

The area is divided into

- Highlands
- Lowlands
- Islands/marine/pacific
The highlands!

- Two separate regions:
  A. The mountainous zone of central and western Mexico (northern Highlands)
  B. The highlands of Guatemala and the Mexican state of Chiapas (southern highlands)
Features of the Highlands!

- Fertile soils found in the valleys
- Climate: Much cooler and drier
- Subject to tsunamis, volcanoes, and earthquakes
- Source of obsidian, jade, developed trade
- Low rain fall levels: developed techniques to divert water to their direction and created chinampapas (beds for planting)
Lowlands!

• The lowlands are divided into two:
  • Northern:
    • Comprised of forests – much drier
  • Southern: Covered by a rainforest
    • scattered savannas and swamps, or bajos
Northern lowlands

• North western part: semi-arid, driest in the region
• North eastern part: has greater amount of rains
  • Cenotes are common and provide a source of water
• The Puuc hills (the only hills in the northern lowland area)
Cenotes!

A cenote is a natural pit, or sinkhole resulting from the collapse of limestone bedrock that exposes groundwater underneath.
Southern Lowlands!

• Receives more rainfall!
• Contains tropical and subtropical climate
• Has more rivers! Major rivers Usumacinta and Pasión
Homework!

A. Create a Map outlining: the Northern lowlands, southern lowlands, northern highlands, and the southern highlands

B. Create a list of at least three features of the northern lowlands, southern lowlands, and the highlands