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3. the earliest American civilization that emerged in the tropical forests along the Gulf of Mexico, which lasted from about 1500 B.C. to 400 B.C.
4. artificial islands made of mud piled atop reed mats that were anchored to the shallow lake bed with willow trees.
6. tall stone monuments sculpted by the Mayans. These carvings preserve striking images of nobles, warrior and powerful rulers. They also represent the Maya gods.
8. payment from conquered people helped the Aztecs turn their capital into a magnificent city.