**Chapter 7: Latin America**

**Section 3 Vocabulary**

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| **New Word**  | **Definition** |
| Olmec | an early civilization along the Gulf Coast of what is now southern Mexico |
| Maya | an early civilization located in what is now Yucatan Peninsula, Guatemala, and northern Belize |
| cultural hearth | the heartland, or place of origin, of a major culture |
| glyph | a carved or engraved symbol that stands for a symbol or word |
| empire | a political system in which people or lands are controlled by one ruler |
| Aztec | an early civilization in the Valley of Mexico |
| chinampas | artificial islands used for farming |
| Inca | an early civilization in the Andes Mountains of Peru |
| culture | the shared attitudes, knowledge, and behaviors of a group |
| jaguar | a large cat mainly found in Central and South America |