

World History: Connection to Today

Chapter 7

Civilizations of the Americas (1400 B.C.–A.D. 1570)

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Section 1: Civilizations of Middle America

Section 2: The World of the Incas

Section 3: Peoples of North America

Civilizations of Middle America



- How did geography affect the development of cultures in the Americas?
- What were the main features of Olmec and Mayan civilizations?
- How did the Aztec culture develop?



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Geography of the Americas



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Settling the Americas



Some 30,000 years ago, Paleolithic hunters crossed a land bridge to reach North America from Asia.

About 10,000 B.C., **global warming** killed off game animals and forced the nomadic hunter-gatherers to migrate eastward and southward across the Americas.

The first Americans adapted to a variety of climates and resources, ranging from the hot, wet climate near the Equator to icy, treeless lands in the far north.



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The Olmecs and the Mayas



OLMECS	MAYAS
Were the earliest American civilization	Developed complex irrigation methods for farming
Had powerful priests and aristocrats at the top of society	Built towering pyramid temples in Tikal
Built ceremonial centers	Traded extensively across Middle America
Spread influence through trade	Developed hieroglyphic writing system
Developed calendar	Developed accurate calendar and numbering system
Introduced tradition of priestly leadership and religious devotion	Abandoned cities around A.D. 900



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Arrival of the Aztecs



- In the late 1200s, nomadic ancestors of the Aztecs migrated into the Valley of Mexico.
- The Aztecs built the city of Tenochtitlán.
- In the 1400s, the Aztecs greatly expanded their territory through conquests and alliances.

By 1500, the Aztec empire spread from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean and numbered 30 million people.



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Aztec Society



GOVERNMENT & SOCIETY	RELIGION	LEARNING
<p>The empire had a single ruler.</p> <p>Slaves could own and buy freedom.</p> <p>Long-distance traders traveled around the empire and beyond.</p>	<p>Priests were a special class.</p> <p>The sun god was the chief Aztec god.</p> <p>Aztecs practiced human sacrifice on a massive scale.</p>	<p>Priests recorded Aztec knowledge and ran schools for sons of nobles.</p> <p>Some priests were astronomers or mathematicians.</p>



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Section 1 Assessment



Which of the following was an effect of global warming on the Americas?

- a) The game-animal population increased.
- b) Nomadic peoples migrated eastward and southward.
- c) All traces of human life disappeared.
- d) Nomadic peoples killed off all the game animals.

Which group practiced large-scale human sacrifice?

- a) the Olmecs
- b) the Mayas
- c) the Aztecs
- d) the Incas

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Section 1 Assessment



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The World of the Incas



- What were the main achievements of the early peoples of Peru?
- How did Incan emperors extend and maintain their empire?
- How did the Incas live?



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Early Peoples of Peru



CHAVIN	MOCHICA	NAZCA
<p>Built huge temple complex</p> <p>Worshiped ferocious-looking god</p> <p>Chavin art and religion influenced later peoples of Peru</p>	<p>Were skilled farmers who developed methods of terracing, irrigation, and fertilization of the soil</p> <p>Organized relay-runners to carry messages</p> <p>Perfecting skills in textile production, goldwork, and woodcarving</p>	<p>Etched glyphs in the desert. A glyph is a pictograph or symbol carved into a surface.</p>



The Incan Empire



The Incas built a complex civilization that relied on order and absolute authority.

- They ran an efficient government with a chain of command reaching to every village.
- They imposed their own language and religion on the people.
- They created one of the great road systems in history, allowing armies and news to travel rapidly around the empire.
- They posted runners throughout the empire to carry news of revolts and soldiers to quickly crush them.
- They prohibited ordinary people from using the roads at all.



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Incan Government



Incan System of Rule

Leader	Responsibility
The Inca	• Ruled the entire Incan empire
Suyuyuq Apu	• Controlled one of four regions of the empire
Hunu Kamayoq	• Governed a province containing 10,000 families
Waranq Kamayoq	• Acted as head of 1,000 families
Pichqa Pachaq Kamayoq	• Acted as head of 500 families
Pachaq Kamayoq	• Acted as head of 100 families
Pichqa Chunka Kamayoq	• Acted as head of 50 families
Chunka Kamayoq	• Acted as head of 10 families
Pichqa Kamayoq	• Acted as head of 5 families
Pureq	• Acted as head of 1 family



Daily Life



- The Incas strictly regulated the lives of millions of people within their empire
- Government officials arranged marriages.
- Community leaders assigned jobs to each family and organized the community to work the land.
- Farmers had to spend part of each year working land for the emperor and the temples.
- Government officials controlled the harvest.



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Section 2 Assessment



Who was prohibited from using the roads of the Incan empire?

- a) the army
- b) messengers
- c) ordinary people
- d) the Sapa Inca

Who controlled harvests in the Incan empire?

- a) farmers
- b) government officials
- c) priests
- d) soldiers

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Section 2 Assessment



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Peoples of North America



- How did people in the desert southwest adapt to their environment?
- How did the culture of the Mound Builders reflect their contact with other regions?
- How did the diverse regional cultures in the Americas differ from one another?



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The Desert Southwest



- More than 1,000 years ago, the Hohokams farmed the deserts of Arizona by building a complex irrigation system.
- The Anasazi built large villages, later called **pueblos** by the Spanish. Later on, to protect themselves from invaders, they built and lived in housing complexes in the canyon walls, known as cliff dwellings.



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The Mound Builders



The Adina and Hopewell people settled in the Mississippi Valley and build giant earthen mounds.

Objects from the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes region were found in the mounds, proving that traders had contact with peoples from distant regions.

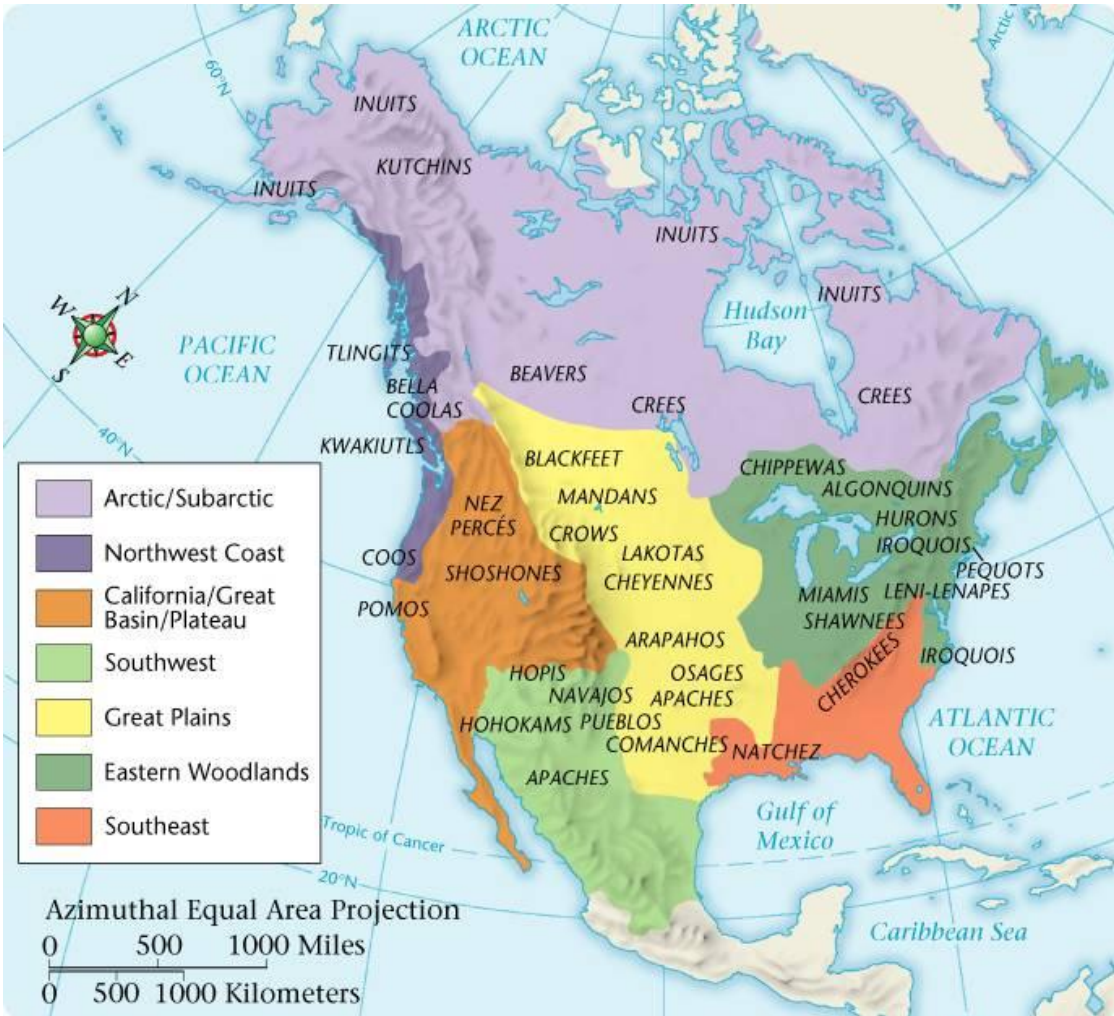


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North American Culture Areas About 1450



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North American Culture Areas About 1450



Arctic/Subarctic

Beavers, Crees, Inuits, Kutchins Lived as nomadic hunters and food gatherers in cold climate; honored ocean, weather, and animal spirits

California/Great Basin/Plateau

Nez Percés, Pomos, Shoshones Lived as hunters and gatherers in small family groups; ate mainly fish, berries, acorns

Southeast

Cherokees, Natchez Grew corn, squash, beans, and other crops; held yearly Green Corn Ceremony to mark end of year and celebrate harvest

Southwest

Apaches, Hohokams, Hopis, Navajos, Pueblos Lived in villages in homes made of adobe; built irrigation systems to grow corn and other crops; honored earth, sky, and water spirits

Northwest Coast

Bella Coolas, Coos, Kwakiutls, Tlingits Lived in villages; benefited from rich natural resources in forests, rivers, and ocean; held potlatches, or ceremonial dinners, where host families gave gifts to guests to show wealth and gain status

Eastern Woodlands

Algonquins, Chippewas, Hurons, Iroquois, Leni-Lenapes, Miamis, Pequots, Shawnees Lived in farming villages, but also hunted for food; long houses shared by several families; women held social and political power

Great Plains

Apaches, Arapahos, Blackfeet, Cheyennes, Comanches, Crows, Lakotas, Mandans, Osages Lived in tepees; animals hunted by men; crops grown by women; relied on buffalo to meet basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing



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Section

1

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Section 3 Assessment



The Anasazi lived in cliff dwellings in order to

- a) keep away from wild animals.**
- b) protect themselves from invaders.**
- c) be warmer at night.**
- d) control desert irrigation.**

Who relied on buffalo to meet their basic needs?

- a) people of the Southwest**
- b) people of the Southeast**
- c) people of the Eastern Woodlands**
- d) people of the Great Plains**

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Section 3 Assessment



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