

The First Americans

Lesson 3 North American Peoples

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

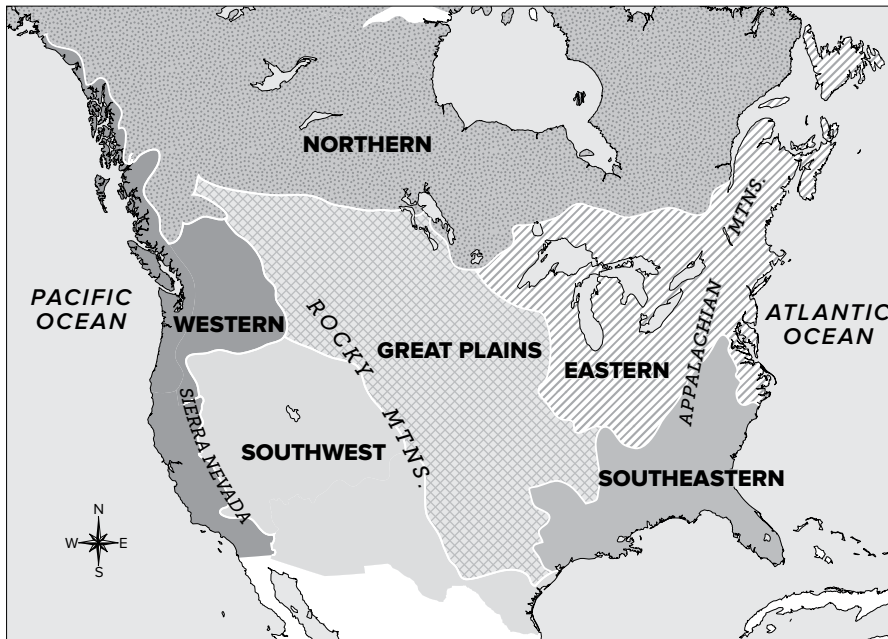
1. *What did the Adena, Hopewell, Mississippian, Hohokam, and Ancient Puebloan cultures have in common?*
2. *How did early Native Americans adapt to their environment?*

Terms to Know

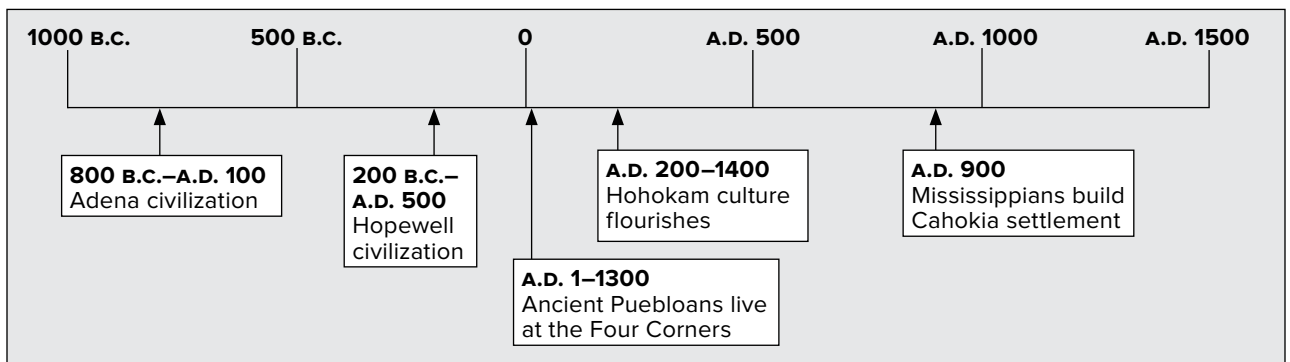
irrigate to supply water to crops by artificial means

federation government that links different groups

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



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Early North American Cultures

North America produced advanced cultures in the centuries before Europeans arrived. Among them were:

- the Adena
- the Hopewell
- the Mississippians
- the Hohokam
- the Ancient Puebloans.

In Central and Eastern North America lived the Mound Builders. Scientists call them the Mound Builders because they built thousands of mounds out of earth. These mounds had different shapes and uses. Some looked like animals, such as snakes. Others looked like Maya or Aztec pyramids. Some were burial chambers, and others had temples on top like Maya pyramids. Could there have been a link between the Mound Builders and the Maya and Aztec?

Archaeologists have divided the Mound Builders into three different groups.

Mound Builder Cultures		
Culture	Location	Notable Accomplishments
Adena c. 800 B.C.—A.D. 100	Ohio River valley	Hunters and gatherers
Hopewell c. 200 B.C.—A.D. 500	Ohio River valley and Mississippi River valley	Farmers and traders Built huge burial mounds Indications of wide trade networks
Mississippians c. A.D. 700—c. A.D. 1500	Southeast and along Mississippi River	Built Cahokia, largest earthworks settlement

The Mississippians settlement Cahokia may have had a population of 20,000 or more. This city resembled the great cities of Mexico. It featured a large pyramid-shaped mound with a large temple on top called Monks Mound. It was 100 feet (30 m) tall.



Listing

1. List two shapes the Mound Builders used in their earthworks.



Making Inferences

2. Why might people think there was a connection between the Mound Builders and the Maya and Aztec?



Analyzing

3. Which Mound Builder civilizations existed at the same time? When?



Identifying

4. What was the name of a Mississippian settlement?

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 **Mark the Text**

5. Underline the definition of *irrigate*.

 **Describing**

6. Describe the area called the Four Corners.

 **Reading Check**

7. Name two types of dwellings the Ancient Puebloans built.

 **Defining**

8. What is an *igloo*?

 **Reading Check**

9. Give two examples of how Western peoples adapted to their environment.

The Hohokam lived in the hot desert of what is now Arizona from about A.D. 200 to 1400. In order to farm in that climate, the Hohokam built hundreds of miles of channels to **irrigate**, or bring water to, their fields. They grew corn, cotton, and other crops. They also made pottery, carved stone, and used acid to make patterns in shells, which they got from coastal peoples.

From about A.D. 1 to 1300, the Ancient Puebloans lived in the Four Corners region. This is the area where the modern states of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico meet. The Ancient Puebloans are known for their huge stone dwellings, later called *pueblos* by Spanish explorers. One pueblo—Pueblo Bonito—has four stories and hundreds of rooms.

The Ancient Puebloans also built shelters into the walls of steep cliffs. These cliff dwellings were good protection from winter weather and enemy attacks. One of the largest was Mesa Verde in Colorado, where thousands lived.

The Native Americans Circa 1492

The Inuit settled the cold region of North America near the Arctic Ocean. Scientists think they originally came from Siberia, which is also very cold, and brought cold-weather survival skills with them. They built shelters called *igloos* out of snow blocks. They hunted whales, seals, and walrus from small boats and caribou on land. They used animal skins to make clothes and burned seal oil in lamps.

The western coast of North America provided a milder climate and dependable food sources. Western peoples included:

- The Tlingit, Haida, and Chinook of the northwestern coast (present-day Canada, Washington, and Oregon). These cultures relied on the woods and the waters. They built houses and canoes from wood. Their main food was salmon.
- The Nez Perce and Yakima of the plateau region between the Cascade Mountains and the Rocky Mountains. These groups lived in earthen houses. They fished, hunted deer, and gathered roots and berries.
- Today's California was home to many groups. Along the northern coast, people fished for food. In the central valley, the Pomo pounded acorns into flour. In the southern deserts, nomads gathered roots and seeds.

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- In the Great Basin of the Southwest between the Sierra Nevada and the Rocky Mountains, the Ute and Shoshone hunted small game and gathered pine nuts, juniper berries, roots, and even some insects.

The Hopi, Acoma, and Zuni of the Southwest descended from the Ancient Puebloans. They built houses from bricks made of dried mud called *adobe*. They irrigated their fields and farmed maize, beans, squash, melons, pumpkins, and fruit. In the 1500s, the nomadic Apache and Navajo came to this region. The Navajo later formed villages, living in square houses called *hogans*. They began to farm and even to raise sheep.

The nomadic Plains peoples lived in hide tents called *tepees*. The women planted maize, squash, and beans. The men hunted antelope, deer, and buffalo. Buffalo provided more than food. Their skin was used for clothes and shelter, and their bones were used to make weapons.

In the woodlands of eastern North America lived many Algonquian peoples, who all spoke a similar language. The Cherokee and Iroquois had formal laws and alliances called **federations**. There were five Iroquois nations—the Onondaga, Seneca, Mohawk, Oneida, and Cayuga. They were often at war until, in the 1500s, they formed the Iroquois League, which was organized by clans, or groups of people related. Under the League’s constitution, the Grand Council settled disputes.

Southeastern peoples were farmers. The Creek grew corn, squash, and tobacco. The Chickasaw farmed the fertile area where the Mississippi River connects to the sea.

Check for Understanding

What evidence might connect the Mound Builders with the Maya and Aztec?

Name one way each of these Native American groups adapted to their environment:

- Hohokam _____
- Ancient Puebloans _____
- Inuit _____
- Plains People _____



Describing

- 10.** How did the Southwest people grow crops in such a dry region?



Listing

- 11.** List three things buffalo provided for the Plains peoples.



Analyzing

- 12.** How did the five Iroquois nations come together?



- 13.** Place a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Create a memory map by writing *Dwellings* in the middle of the tab. Draw arrows to words or phrases you remember about the kinds of shelter Native Americans built. Write additional information on the back.

Glue Foldable here