

Early Native American Cultures and the Middle Ages.

[Early Americans.]

- Many scientists believe that people first arrived in North America during the last Ice Age.
- Historians rely on archaeology (the study of the unwritten past) and artifacts (remains of objects made by humans) to determine when people crossed into North America.
- Artifacts suggest that Paleo-Indians, the first Americans, crossed into Alaska from Asia sometime between 38,000 and 10,000 b.c. across Beringia, a land bridge.

[Early Americans.]

- Warmer weather at the end of the Ice Age created many new environments.
- Different **environments** influenced or shaped the development of Native American cultures (way of life!).
- The development of agriculture allowed many Native American groups to settle in villages and led to the rise of larger and more complex societies.

["Granddaddy of Indian Cultures".]

- Olmec: "Mother Culture" and developed writing using glyphs.
- Maya: Great mathematicians and astronomers.
- Aztec: Great wealth acquired through conquering other Indian groups.
- Inca: Andes in South America.
- Anasazi: Pueblo builders.
- Hopewell and Mississippians: Burial and ceremonial mound builders.

[The Far North.]

- Includes the Arctic and Subarctic region.
- Few plants because of harsh environment.
- Include the Aleut, Inuit, Athabaskan and Algonquian Indian groups.
- Fishing and hunting large animals.
- Kayaks, igloos and log houses!?.

[The Pacific Coast.]

- A mild climate.
- Rich supply of game, sea life and wild plants and no farming.
- Include the Tlingit, Nootka and the Skokomish in the northwest.
- Totems and Potlatches.
- Include the Pomo, Hupa and Yurock in California region.

[The West and Southwest.]

- Less resources than the far west because of less rainfall.
- Hunted small game (crickets and rabbits), fished and gathered plants.
- Included the Flathead, Modoc and Nez Perce.
- Dryer climates in the Great Basin region.
- Include the Paiute, Shoshone and the Ute.
- Apache, Navajo and Pueblo in southwest.

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[The Great Plains.]

- Mainly grassland with great game.
- Included the Mandan and Pawnee.
- Grew crops such as beans, maize and squash.
- Also included the Blackfoot, Arapaho, Comanche, and Teton Sioux.
- Great hunters.

[The East.]

- Great resources for food and shelter:
Forests: Log houses and wigwams.
- Included the Cherokee, Creek, Natchez, and Seminole in the southeast.
- Relied mainly on farming.
- Iroquois (Northeast-Great Lakes) and their great league: Most powerful peoples in North America.
- Wampanoag and Pequot lived south of Iroquois in the Northeast.

[Europe During the Middle Ages.]

- The Vikings in North America: Leif Eriksson and Vinland 500 years before Columbus.
- The Middle Ages lasted from about A.D. 500 to 1500.
- A New Government developed called feudalism.
- People lived on large estates called manors.
- Life of nobility and peasants differed.
- The Catholic Church was the center of religious and social life.
- Christianity influenced culture and politics.
- Monasteries and convents were important to Christian men and women.

[Europe During the Middle Ages.]

- Nobles lost power.
- Monarchs built new nations.
- Magna Carta limited English monarchs' power and protected some individual rights.
- Trade expanded.
- Cities grew.
- Agricultural innovations led to population growth (Crop Rotation and watermills).
- Middle Ages come to an end with the start of the Age of Exploration (notes to follow).