



North American Peoples

Discover Our Past: American History
Chapter 1 Lesson 3
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It Matters Because

Early Native American
groups of North America
adapted to their
environments.



Early North American Cultures

- As in Mexico, Central America, and South America, advanced cultures developed in parts of North America that are now the United States long before Europeans arrived in the 1500s.
- Among these cultures were the Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippians in the central and eastern regions of the present-day United States.
- The Hohokam and the Ancient Puebloans emerged in the southwestern region.



Early North American Cultures

The Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippian Cultures



Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in south-central Ohio preserves some of the prehistoric burial mounds made by the Hopewell people.

- In central and eastern North America, prehistoric Native Americans built thousands of earthen mounds, or earthworks.
- The earthworks were not created by a single group but by many different peoples.
- Scientists have sometimes referred to these different peoples together as the Mound Builders.



Early North American Cultures

The Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippian Cultures

- The ancient earthworks take many different forms.
- One famous example is in the shape of a serpent.
- Some resemble the pyramids of the Maya and the Aztec.
- Some contained burial chambers, and others were topped with temples.
- This seems to indicate that cultures of Mexico and Central America, such as the Maya and Aztec, may have influenced some of these cultures.



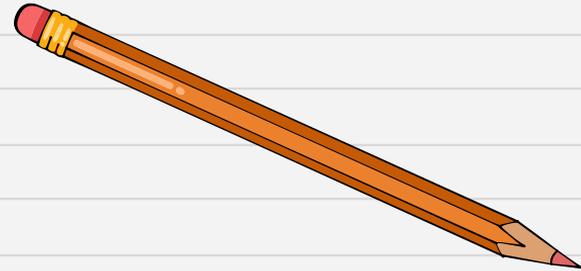
The Serpent Mound in southern Ohio is one of many animal-shaped effigy mounds built by the Adena people.

Early North American Cultures

The Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippian Cultures



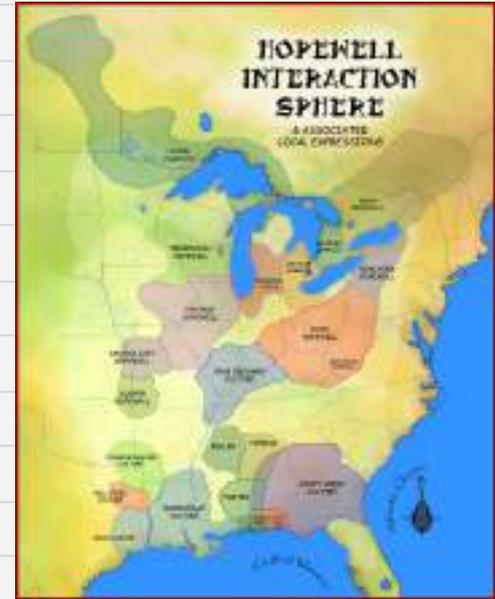
- Archaeologists have classified these earthwork-building cultures into three groups: the Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippian cultures.
- Modern-day scientists named the groups.
- No one knows what these early people called themselves.



Early North American Cultures

The Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippian Cultures

- The Adena were hunters and gatherers who lived in the Ohio River valley from about 800 B.C. to A.D. 100.
- The Hopewell people came later, between 200 B.C. and A.D. 500.
- The Hopewell were farmers and traders who built huge burial earthworks in the shapes of birds, bears, and snakes.
- Within these earthworks, archaeologists have discovered freshwater pearls, shells, cloth, and copper.
- These finds indicate that the Hopewell trade networks extended for hundreds of miles.



Early North American Cultures

Cahokia

- Sometime after A.D. 900, a people now called the Mississippians built the largest known earthworks complex in present-day Illinois.
- Later named Cahokia (kuh-HOH-kee-uh), the complex might have had 20,000 or more residents.
- Surrounded by farms and settlements, Cahokia became the center of Mississippian culture.



Early North American Cultures

Cahokia

- Cahokia (kuh-HOH-kee-uh) appears to have resembled the ancient cities of Mexico
- A great pyramid-shaped earthwork dominated Cahokia.
- Known as Monks Mound, it rose nearly 100 ft (30 m).
- A temple crowned the summit of Monks Mound.
- A legend of the Natchez people, descendants of the Mississippians, hints of a direct link to Mexico:
 - *“Before we came into this land, we lived yonder, under the sun. [the speaker pointed toward Mexico] ... Our entire nation extended along the great water [Gulf of Mexico] where this great river [St. Louis River] loses itself.” ~ Natchez legend.*



Early North American Cultures

Cahokia



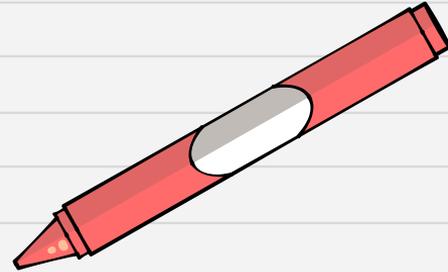
Early North American Cultures

Hohokam



Petroglyphs made by the Hohokam people can be seen in Saguaro National Park in Tucson, Arizona.

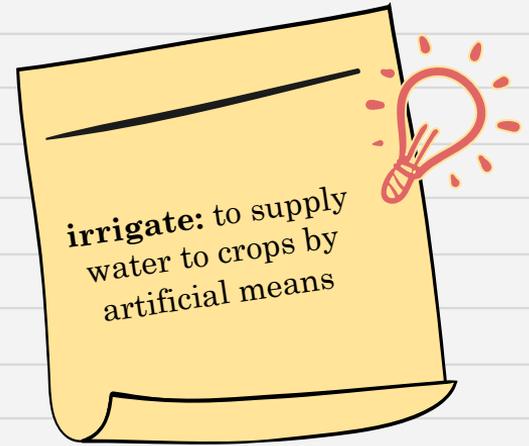
- From about A.D. 200 to A.D. 1400, the Hohokam (hoh-hoh-KAHM) culture flourished in the dry, hot desert of present-day Arizona.
- As with the Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippian cultures, the name Hohokam was given to this culture in modern times.



Early North American Cultures

Hohokam

- As desert dwellers, the Hohokam were experts at maximizing their few sources of water.
- They **irrigated** their corn, cotton, and other crops by digging hundreds of miles of channels.
- The Hohokam also produced pottery, carved stone, and etched shells with acid.
- The shells serve as evidence of trade with coastal peoples.



Early North American Cultures

Ancient Puebloans



- The Four Corners is the place where the modern-day states of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico meet.
- It was in this region that the Ancient Puebloans (PWEH-bloh-uhnz) lived at about the same time as the Hohokam – from about A.D. 1 to A.D. 1300.
- In the past, these people were called the Anasazi, but descendants of the Ancient Puebloans dislike that name.

Early North American Cultures

Ancient Pueblos

- The Ancient Pueblos built great stone dwellings that Spanish explorers later called pueblos (PWEH-blohhs), or villages.
- Visitors to New Mexico today can still see one of the most spectacular of these ancient settlements, Pueblo Bonito.
- The huge structure was at least four stories high and had hundreds of rooms.
- Around pueblo Bonito, archaeologists have found traces of a complex network of roads.
- These roads linked the pueblo with other villages.
- They suggest that Pueblo Bonito may have been a center for trade and religion.



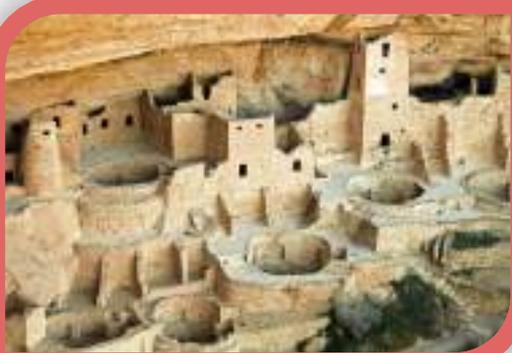
The apartment-style adobe buildings of Taos Pueblo in New Mexico are typical of the architecture of the Pueblo Indians.

Early North American Cultures

Ancient Puebloans



- The Ancient Puebloans also built dwellings in the walls of steep cliffs.
- Cliff dwellings were easy to defend and offered protection from winter weather.
- One of the largest cliff dwellings is Mesa Verde (MAY-suh VUHR-dee) in Colorado.
- This ancient, complex structure was home to several thousand people.



Early North American Cultures

Ancient Pueblos

- The Ancient Pueblos began leaving their pueblos (PWEH-blohhs) and cliff dwellings for smaller communities in about 1300.
- They might have abandoned their large villages when drought, a long period of little rainfall, destroyed their crops.



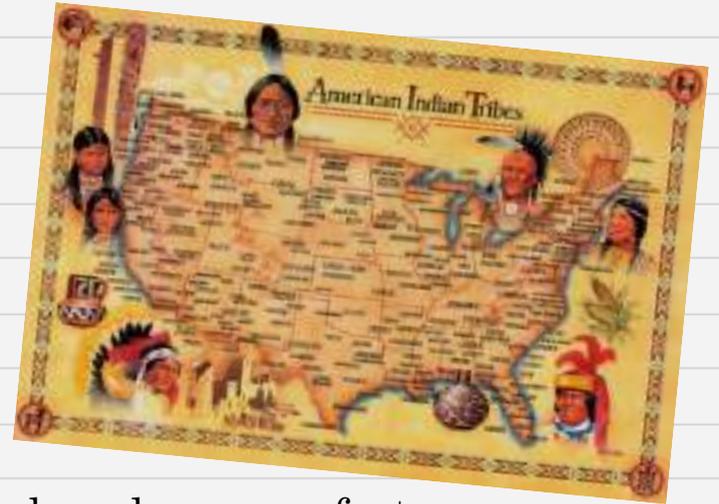
Early North American Cultures

Ancient Pueblos



Native Americans Circa 1492

- While the Hohokam, Ancient Puebloan, and the Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippian civilizations eventually faded away, other Native American cultures arose to take their place.
- In the time before European arrival in the late 1400s, many unique societies flourished throughout North America.
- Within different regions, different groups shared common features.
- These features reflected the conditions within each region



Native Americans Circa 1492

Northern Peoples



- A people called the Inuit (IH-noo-wuht) settled the frigid lands at the northernmost part of North America, near the Arctic Ocean.
- Some scientists believe the Inuit were the last migrants to come from Asia to North America.
- The Inuit may have originally come from the Asian region of Siberia, bringing with them the skills needed to survive the cold climate.
- In the winter, the Inuit built igloos, low-lying structures of snow blocks, which protected them from severe weather.

Native Americans Circa 1492

Northern Peoples

- The Inuit (IH-noo-wuht) were skilled hunters and fishers.
- In the coastal waters, they hunted whales, seals, and walrus in small, skin-covered boats called kayaks.
- On land they hunted caribou, large deerlike animals that lived in the far North.
- The Inuit made warm, waterproof clothing from the caribou skins and seal skins. They burned seal oil in lamps.



Native Americans Circa 1492



Western Peoples

- The western coast of North America has a mostly mild climate and dependable food sources.
- Such favorable conditions helped many native groups in this region thrive.
- The Tlingit (TLIHNG-kuht), Haida (HY-duh), and Chinook (shuh-NUK) lived on the northwestern coast of North America in what are now Canada, southern Alaska, Washington, and Oregon.
- The cultures of this region depended on the forest and the sea for food and materials needed for living.
- Forests provided wood for. Houses and canoes as well as tree bark for making baskets and clothing.
- The rivers and coastal waters were filled with salmon, a main food source.
- Native Americans preserved salmon by smoking it over fires.

Native Americans Circa 1492

Western Peoples



- The area between the Cascade Mountains and the Rocky Mountains is known as the plateau region.
- There, the Nez Perce (NEHZ PUHRS) and Yakima (YAH-keh-muh) people also depended on the land, fishing the rivers, hunting deer in forests, and gathering roots and berries.
- The Native Americans of the plateau region lived in eastern houses.

Native Americans Circa 1492

Western Peoples



- Present-day California was home to a great variety of cultures.
- Along the northern coast, Native Americans fished for their foods.
- In the central valley of California, the Pomo (poh-moh) gathered acorns and pounded them into flour.
- In the more barren southern deserts, nomadic groups collected roots and seeds.

Native Americans Circa 1492

Western Peoples



- Between the Sierra Nevada and the Rocky Mountains lies the Great Basin region
- There, the soil was too hard and rocky for farming.
- This meant that peoples such as the Ute ^(YOOT) and Shoshone ^(shuh-SHOHN) had to travel in search of food.
- They hunted and gathered small game, pine nuts, juniper berries, roots, and some insects.
- They crafted temporary shelters from branches and reeds.

Native Americans Circa 1492

Southwestern Peoples

- In the Southwest region, descendants of the Ancient Puebloans formed the Hopi (HOH-pee), the Acoma (uh-KOH-muh), the Zuni (ZOO-nee), and other peoples.
- Farming was central to their cultures, with maize serving as their basic food source.
- They build their homes from dried mud bricks called adobe (uh-DOH-bee).
- They also used irrigation to grow beans, squash, melons, pumpkins, and fruit.
- Their trade network spread throughout the Southwest and into Mexico.



The apartment-style adobe buildings of Taos Pueblo in New Mexico are typical of the architecture of the Pueblo Indians.



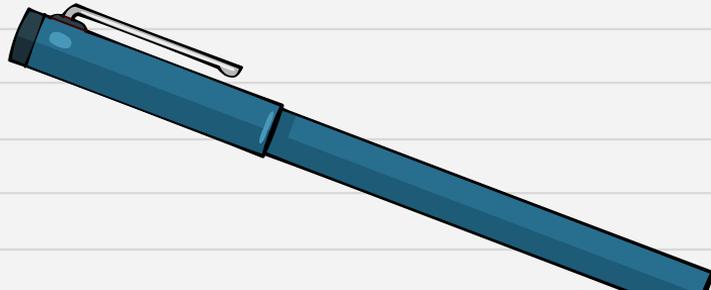
Native Americans Circa 1492

Southwestern Peoples



A Navajo woman, left, spins yarn while a girl weaves a rug on a loom.

- The Apache and the Navajo settled in the Southwest region about 1,000 years ago.
- These new groups were primarily hunters and gatherers.
- In time, the Navajo settled in villages and built square houses called hogans.
- They also began to grow maize and beans, and they raised sheep as well.



Native Americans Circa 1492

Plains Peoples

- The peoples of the Great Plains were nomadic.
- Their villages were temporary, lasting only for a growing season or two.
- The women planted maize, squash, and beans.
- The men hunted antelope, deer, and buffalo.
- When the people moved from place to place, they dragged their homes – cone-shaped skin tents called tepees – behind them.



Native Americans Circa 1492



Plains Peoples

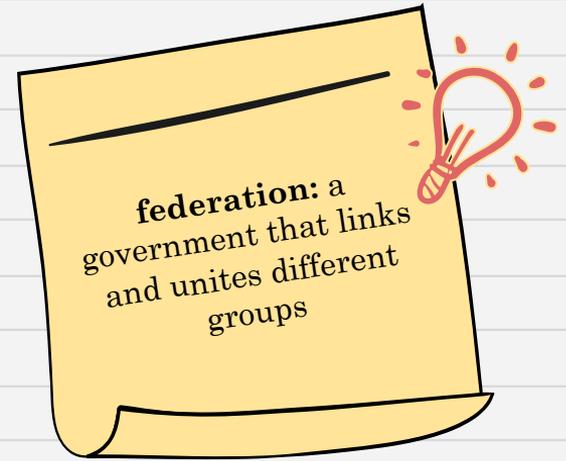


- Buffalo were central to the lives of the people of the Plains.
- Native Americans used buffalo to supply many basic needs.
- Buffalo meat was a good source of food, and people used the bones to make tools and weapons.
- Buffalo skins provided shelter and clothing.
- Today many people associate Native Americans of the Plains with the use of horses.
- These animals would transform Plains life – but not until the 1600s, after their arrival from Europe.

Native Americans Circa 1492

Eastern Peoples

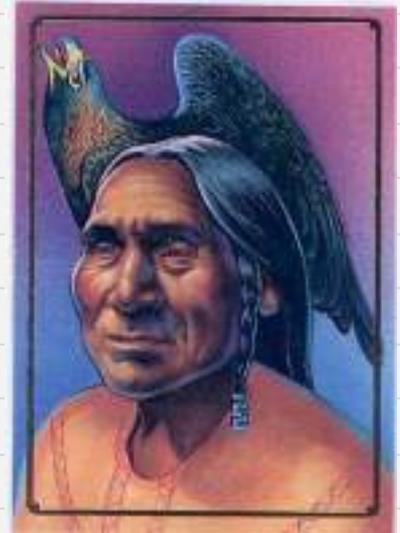
- Complex societies existed in the woodlands of eastern North America.
- A similar language connected the many Algonquian (al-GAHN-kwee-uhn) groups.
- The Cherokee and Iroquois had formal law codes and formed **federations**.
- The Iroquois lived near Canada in what is now northern New York State.
- The original five Iroquois groups, or nations, were the Onondaga (ah-nuhn-DAW-guh), the Seneca (SHE-nih-kuh), the Mohawk, the Oneida (oh-NY-duh), and the Cayuga (kay-YOO-guh).



Native Americans Circa 1492

Eastern Peoples

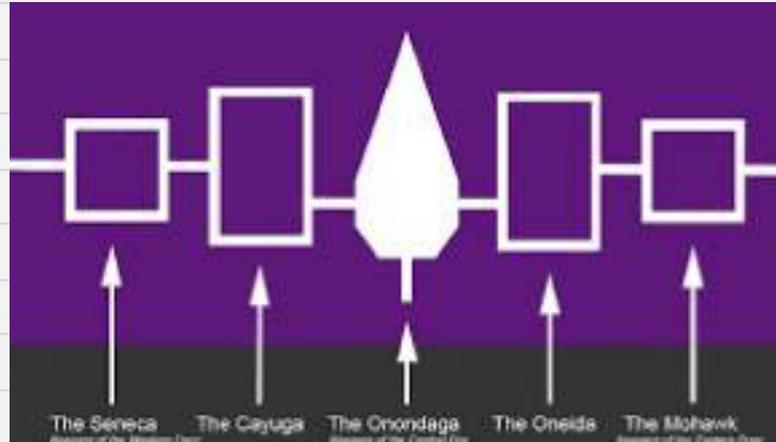
- These groups often warred with each other.
- Then, in the 1500s, they established the Great Peace, an alliance called the Iroquois League.
- According to Iroquoian tradition, Dekanawidah (deh-kah-nuh-WEE-duh), a tribal elder, and a chief of the Mohawk named Hiawatha (hi-uh-WAH-thuh) founded the league.
- Worried that war was tearing the nations the nations apart, they urged the people to unite into the spirit of friendship and peace.



Native Americans Circa 1492

Eastern Peoples

- The five nations agreed to the Great Binding Law, an oral constitution that defined how the league worked and established the Grand Council.
- This group of leaders met regularly to settle disputes among the various peoples.



Native Americans Circa 1492

Eastern Peoples

- Although Grand Council members were men, women played an important part in choosing delegates to the council.
- Different members of the Iroquois League were organized according to clans, or groups of related families.
- The women in each clan chose a clan member.
- These clan members then chose the male members of the Grand Council.
- The Tuscarora (tus-kuh-ROR-uh) people joined the league in 1715.
- With their addition, the five nations became six.



Native Americans Circa 1492



Southeastern Peoples

- The Southeast was also a woodlands area, but with a warmer climate than the Eastern Woodlands.
 - Among the Native American groups of the Southeast were the Creek, Cherokee, and Chickasaw.
 - Farming was essential for each of these groups.
 - The Creek lived in loosely knit farming communities in what is now Georgia and Alabama.
 - There they grew corn, squash, tobacco, and other crops.
 - The Cherokee farmed in the mountains of what is now Georgia, Tennessee, and the Carolinas.
 - The Chickasaw spread out across the Southeast, but most of their largest settlements were in present-day Mississippi.
 - There they farmed the fertile river bottomlands.
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Native Americans Circa 1492

A Changing World



- In whichever part of North America they lived, Native Americans developed rich and varied cultures, and ways of living that were suited to their environments.
- In the 1500s, however, a new people with vastly different cultures and ways of life would arrive in the Americas: the Europeans.
- Their arrival would change the Native Americans' world forever.



Review the Lesson

Vocabulary

- irrigate
- federation
- clan

Geographic Location of Following Tribes

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| • Adena | • Cherokee |
| • Hopewell | • Iroquois |
| • Nez Perce | • Mississippian |
| • Yakima | • Hohokam |
| • Pomo | • Puebloan |
| • Ute | • Inuit |
| • Shoshone | • Tlingit |
| • Hopi | • Haida |
| • Apache | • Chinook |
| • Navajo | |

Key Ideas

- Explain the significates of the Iroquois League.
- Explain how the Inuit adapted to the cold Arctic climate.
- Describe how location affected the culture of different native peoples.
- Describe two types of dwellings for which the Ancient Puebloans are known.