### Chapter 1 Colonizing **America Prehistory to 1754 SECTION 1** North America Before Columbus **SECTION 2** Europe Begins to Explore **SECTION 3** Founding the Thirteen Colonies **SECTION 4** Economics, Trade, and Rebellion **SECTION 5** A Diverse Society Pilgrims worshipping at Plymouth in 1621 1607 1519 The English 1619 Hernán Cortés found First Africans arrive Christopher Columbus conquers Jamestown in North America via lands in America the Aztec **Dutch traders** in Virginia **U.S. EVENTS** 1450 1500 1550 1600 **WORLD EVENTS** 1498 1588 1600 c. 1450 1520 1527 Songhai Empire Vasco da Gama sails Ferdinand Magellan Henry VIII English Tokugawa expands in around Africa to India, sails into Pacific Ocean breaks with defeat period of West Africa locating a water route Catholic Spanish feudal rule to Asia from Europe Church Armada begins in

Japan

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2 Chapter 1 Colonizing America



# **North America Before Columbus**

### **Guide to Reading**

### **Big Ideas**

**Geography and History** Each early American or Native American group developed cultures based on the geography of the region in which they lived.

### **Content Vocabulary**

- agricultural revolution (p. 4)
- tribute (p. 6)
- kiva (p. 7)
- pueblo (p. 7)

### **Academic Vocabulary**

- decline (p. 5)
- technology (p. 6)
- eventually (p. 8)

### **People and Events to Identify**

- Beringia (p. 4)
- Mesoamerica (p. 4)
- Maya (p. 5)
- Aztec (p. 6)
- Cahokia (p. 8)
- Iroquois Confederacy (p. 11)

#### Reading Strategy

**Categorizing** Complete a chart similar to the one below by filling in the names of the groups who lived in each region.

Region	Groups
Mesoamerica	
West	
Midwest	
Northeast	

Before 1492 the peoples of the Americas had almost no contact with the rest of the world. The societies and languages that developed varied widely. In North America, some Native Americans lived as nomadic hunters, while others lived in large, complex cities.

# **Mesoamerican Cultures**

MAIN Idea An agricultural revolution led to the first civilizations in Mesoamerica, whose people built large, elaborate cities.

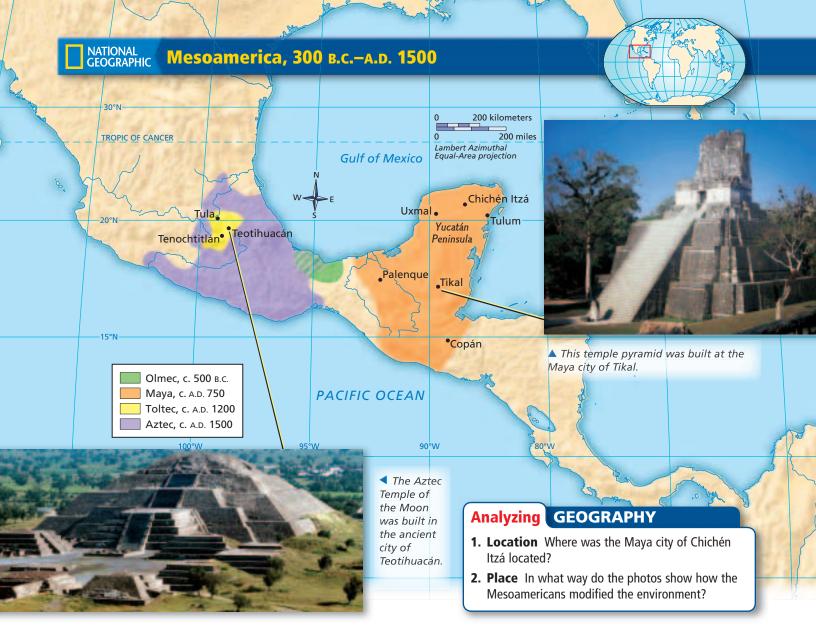
**HISTORY AND YOU** What is the largest city you have visited? Read to learn about the origins of Mexico City, the largest city in North America.

No one knows for certain when the first people arrived in the Americas. Current scientific evidence suggests that the first humans arrived between 15,000 and 30,000 years ago. Based on DNA tests and other evidence, some scientists think the earliest Americans came from northeast Asia. Some may have arrived during the last Ice Age, when much of the earth's water became frozen and created a land bridge between Alaska and Asia along the Bering Strait. Along this stretch of land, known as **Beringia**, nomadic hunters may have crossed to the Americas as they followed large prey, such as the wooly mammoth, antelope, and caribou. These people did not come all at once, and some may have come by boat.

Over time, the descendants of these early settlers spread southward and eastward across the Americas. Between 9,000 and 10,000 years ago, some early Americans learned to plant and raise crops. This **agricultural revolution** began in **Mesoamerica**, the region that today includes central and southern Mexico and Central America. The agricultural revolution made possible the rise of Mesoamerica's first civilizations.

Anthropologists think the first people to develop a civilization in Mesoamerica were the Olmec. Olmec culture emerged between 1500 and 1200 B.C., near where Veracruz, Mexico, is located today. The Olmec developed a sophisticated society with large villages, temple complexes, and pyramids. They also sculpted huge monuments, including 8-foot-high heads weighing up to 20 tons, from a hard rock known as basalt. Olmec culture lasted until about 300 B.C.

Olmec ideas spread throughout Mesoamerica, influencing other peoples. One of these peoples constructed the first large city in the Americas, called Teotihuacán (TAY•oh•TEE•wah•KAHN), about 30 miles northeast of where Mexico City is today. The city was built near a volcano, where there were large deposits of obsidian, or volcanic glass. Obsidian was very valuable. Its sharp, strong edges were perfect for tools and weapons.



The people of Teotihuacán built up a trade network based on obsidian, which influenced the development of Mesoamerica. The city lasted from about 300 B.C. to about A.D. 650.

## The Maya

Around A.D. 200, as Teotihuacán's influence spread, the Maya civilization emerged in the Yucatán Peninsula and expanded into what is now Central America and southern Mexico. The Maya had a talent for engineering and mathematics. They developed complex and accurate calendars linked to the positions of the stars. They also built great temple pyramids. These pyramids formed the centerpieces of Maya cities, such as Tikal and Chichén Itzá. Marvels of engineering, some pyramids were 200 feet (61 m) high. At the top of each pyramid was a temple where priests performed ceremonies dedicated to the many Maya gods.

Although trade and a common culture linked the Maya, they were not unified. Each city-state controlled its own territory. Because of the fragmented nature of their society, the different cities frequently went to war.

The Maya continued to thrive until the A.D. 900s, when they abandoned their cities in the Yucatán for unknown reasons. Some anthropologists believe Maya farmers may have exhausted the region's soil. This in turn would have led to famine, riots, and the collapse of the cities. Others believe that invaders from the north devastated the region. Maya cities in what is today Guatemala flourished for several more centuries, although by the 1500s they too were in decline.

**History** ONLINE Student Web **Activity** Visit glencoe.com and complete the activity on American prehistory.

### The Toltec and the Aztec

North of the Maya civilization, the Toltec people built a large city called Tula. The Toltec were master architects. They built large pyramids and huge palaces with pillared halls. They were among the first American peoples to use gold and copper in art and jewelry.

About A.D. 1200, Tula fell to invaders from the north, known as the Chichimec. One group of Chichimec, called the Mexica, built the city of Tenochtitlán (tay•NAWCH•teet•LAHN) in 1325 on the site of what is today Mexico City. The Mexica took the name Aztec for themselves, from the name of their original homeland, Aztlán. Aztlán is thought to have been located in the American Southwest.

The Aztec created a mighty empire by conquering neighboring cities. Using their military power, they controlled trade in the region and demanded **tribute**, or payment, from the cities they conquered. They also brought some of the people they conquered to Tenochtitlán to sacrifice in their religious ceremonies. When the Europeans arrived in the 1500s, an estimated 5 million people were living under Aztec rule.

Reading Check **Examining** What are some of the theories that explain the decline of Maya cities?

# **Western Cultures**

MAIN Idea Depending on their local environment, the Native Americans of western North America pursued agriculture, fishing, and hunting.

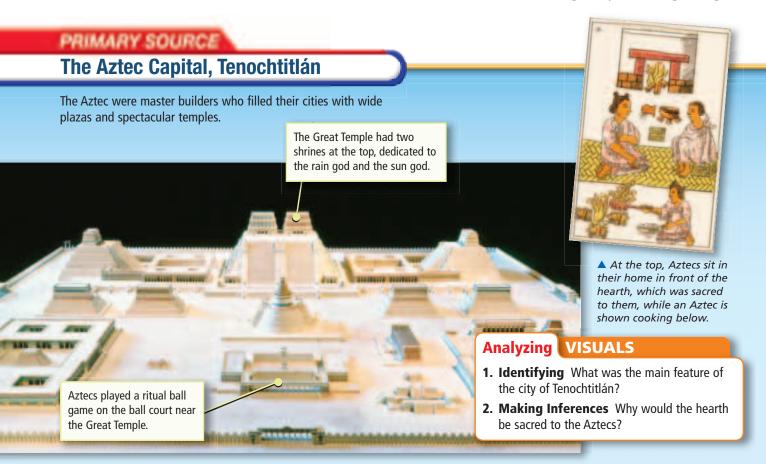
**HISTORY AND YOU** Do you have a particular household chore assigned to you? Read how some Native American families divided household work.

North of Mesoamerica, other peoples developed their own cultures. Many anthropologists think that agricultural **technology** spread from Mesoamerica into the American Southwest and up the Mississippi River. There, it transformed many hunter-gatherer societies into farming societies.

### **The Hohokam**

Beginning in A.D. 300, in what is now south-central Arizona, a group called the Hohokam built a system of irrigation canals. The Hohokam used the Gila and Salt Rivers as their water supply. Their canals carried water hundreds of miles to their farms.

The Hohokam grew corn, cotton, beans, and squash. They also made decorative red-on-buff-colored pottery and turquoise pen-



dants, and used cactus juice to etch shells. Hohokam culture flourished for more than 1,000 years, but in the 1300s they began to abandon their irrigation systems, likely due to floods and increased competition for farmland. By 1500, the Hohokam had left the area.

### The Anasazi

Between A.D. 700 and 900, the people living in villages in what is called the Four Corners area-where Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico now meet—developed another culture. We know these people by the name the Navajo gave them—Anasazi, or "ancient ones." Today they are often called "ancestral Puebloan" people. In the harsh desert, the Anasazi accumulated water by building networks of basins and ditches to channel rain into stone-lined depressions.

Between A.D. 850 and 1100, the Anasazi living in Chaco Canyon in what is now northwest New Mexico began constructing large, multistory buildings of adobe and cut stone, with connecting passageways and circular ceremonial rooms called kivas. Early Spanish explorers called these structures **pueblos**, the Spanish word for "villages." Those who built them are sometimes referred to as Pueblo

The Anasazi built these pueblos at junctions where streams of rainwater ran together. A pueblo in Chaco Canyon, called Pueblo Bonito, had 600 rooms and probably housed at least 1,000 people. Later, at Mesa Verde in what is today southwestern Colorado, the Anasazi built impressive cliff dwellings.

Beginning around A.D. 1130, Chaco Canyon experienced a devastating drought that lasted at least 50 years. This probably caused the Anasazi to abandon their pueblos. The Mesa Verde pueblos lasted for another 200 years, but when another drought struck in the 1270s, they too were abandoned.

### **The Southwest**

The descendants of the Anasazi and Hohokam live in the arid Southwest. At the time of European contact, there were over 50 groups. These groups included the Zuni, Hopi, and other Pueblo peoples. Corn was essential to their survival in the arid climate because its long taproot could reach moisture deep beneath the surface. The farmers also grew squash and beans.

The Pueblo people assigned different tasks to men and women. Men farmed, performed most ceremonies, made moccasins, and wove clothing and blankets. Women made the meals, crafted pottery and baskets, and hauled water. The men and women worked together when harvesting crops and building houses.

Sometime between A.D. 1200 and 1500, two other peoples—the Apache and the Navajo came to the region from the far northwest of North America. Some anthropologists think that their arrival might have been what drove the Chichimec people into Mexico, where they formed the Aztec Empire. Although many of the Apache remained primarily nomadic hunters, the Navajo learned farming from the Pueblo people and lived in widely dispersed settlements.

### The Pacific Coast

Many different groups, including the Tlingit, Haida, Kwakiutl, Nootka, Chinook, and Salish peoples, lived in the lands bordering the Pacific Ocean from what is now southeastern Alaska to Washington State. Although they did not practice agriculture, these groups dwelt in permanent settlements. They looked to the dense coastal forests for lumber, which they used not only to build homes and to fashion oceangoing canoes, but also to create elaborate works of art, ceremonial masks, and totem poles. They were able to stay in one place because the region's coastal waters and many rivers teemed with fish.

In what is today central California, several groups hunted the abundant wildlife and flourished in the mild climate. The Pomo, for example, gathered acorns, caught fish in nets and traps, and snared small game and birds. Pomo hunters, working together, would drive deer toward a spot where the village's best archer waited, hidden and disguised in a deerhead mask. Sometimes, the hunters stampeded game into a corral, where the animals could be easily killed. When game was scarce, however, the Pomo relied on the acorn, which they had learned to convert from a hard, bitter nut into edible flour.

**Reading Check** Analyzing How did societies of the Southwest cope with the dry climate?