

Contact → Collision

Conflicting Perceptions
of
“Civilization”?

Cultures of Central America and South America

The Olmec

- The Olmec were the first major Mesoamerican society.
- They lived along the Gulf of Mexico around 1200 BC.
- The Olmec culture is known as the mother culture of Mesoamerica because their religion, art, agriculture, and social organization influenced later peoples.

Engineers and Artists

- First Mesoamericans to develop a writing system
- Created sculptures made of basalt that weigh as much as 40 tons and stand 10 feet high

Farmers

The Olmec used a “slash-and-burn” farming technique.

Slash-and-Burn

- Trees were cut down and burned on a plot of land.
- Ashes made the land fertile for a few years.
- The farmers then moved to a new plot, allowing the old plots to become fertile again.
- Over time, the farmers cleared large areas of land.

Cultures of Central America and South America

The Maya

- Mayan society began to rise around 400 BC.
- Their cities were religious centers with stone pyramids, palaces, temples, sacred ball courts.
- Religious centers grew into city-states populated by thousands of people.

Mayan Accomplishments

- Priests studied stars and created calendars.
- The Mayan developed a writing system and a number system.

Mayan Decline

- The civilization declined by about 1500, but the culture lives today. Mayan-speaking people still live in Mexico and Guatemala.

The Toltec

- The Toltec dominated central Mexico as the Maya began to decline.
- They were skilled warriors, artisans, and builders.
- Toltec influence is seen in the architecture of late Mayan cities such as Chichén Itzá.

Cultures of Central America and South America

The Aztec

- Came to power in 1400s
- These were the warlike Mexica, better known as the **Aztec**.
- Aztec capital was Tenochtitlán.
 - Built on an island in a shallow lake
 - Featured canals, plazas, and marketplaces
 - Food supplied by floating gardens called *chinampas*, in the lake.
- A conquering people, their slaves and captives were used for human sacrifice to their many gods.

The Inca

- While the Aztec conquered Mesoamerica, the Inca rose to power in the Andes Mountains of South America.
- Inca conquered along the coast.
- Their vast empire was connected by roads and bridges.
- Inca empire was largest in America with perhaps 12 million people.

The Earliest Cultures of North America

Southwest Peoples

- Grew corn, beans, squash and women made pottery
- The Hohokam dug irrigation ditches for farming. Had simple temple mounds and ball courts
- The Anasazi lived in multistory adobe buildings (**pueblos**) built on flat mesas and on steep cliffs.
- The Anasazi had a road system.

Mound Builders

- Lived in eastern North America in small farming villages run by **clan** leaders
- Complex villages developed.
- Called mound builders because they buried their leaders in large earth mounds
- Adena people had a trade network to bring them goods from far away.
- Hopewell people were skilled artists.

Mississippian Culture

- Last major mound-builders
- Most advanced farming society north of Mexico
- Grew maize and beans, invented the hoe
- Towns had large temple-mounds.
- Their greatest cities were Cahokia, near St. Louis, and Moundville, in Alabama.

Regional Differences among Native Americans

- Diverse environments of North America influenced the Native American cultures across the continent.

The Southwest

- Pueblo peoples inherited many Anasazi customs.
- The Zuni, Hopi, and Acoma lived in pueblos.
- They grew corn, beans, squash, and cotton in river and creek bottoms.
- They made distinctive pottery and baskets.
- Later the Apache and the Navajo arrived.
 - Originally nomadic hunters, gradually took up farming like the other Pueblo peoples
 - Became skilled weavers

Regional Differences among Native Americans

The Northwest Coast

- Climate was cool and rainy. Tall trees, wild plants, game, and fish were abundant.
- Hunters went to sea to hunt whales.
- The **Kwakiutl** and the **Haida** were skilled woodworkers.
- The rich resources made them wealthy.

California

- This region was located south of the Northwest Coast.
- Home to the Pomo, Hupa, and Yuro, among others
- These peoples lived in small communities of 50 to 300. There were over 100 languages spoken in the region.
- The people fished and hunted because food was available year-round. They did not have to farm.

Regional Differences among Native Americans

The Far North

- Region also known as Arctic and Subarctic
- The peoples are the most recent migrants from Asia.
- These ancestors of modern Inuit came by boat about 1,500 years ago.
- Aleuts came earlier and settle on Aleutian Islands.

Land and Vegetation

- Much of the land is tundra.
- Animals were abundant despite the lack of vegetation.
- The Inuit and Aleuts mainly hunted.
 - On the coast, people hunted seals, seabirds, and whales
 - Inland, they hunted caribou, beaver, and bear.
- Archaeological evidence of their sites is rare. Perhaps rising sea levels after the Ice Age covered the coastal settlements.

Regional Differences among Native Americans

The Great Basin and the Plateau

- These are two dryland regions located east of the mountain ranges of the Pacific coast.

The Great Basin

- Native Americans such as the Ute and Shoshone were challenged by the weather and environment.
- There was little rain, few trees, no large rivers, and few wild game.
- They were hunter-gatherers: dug roots, gathered acorns and piñon nuts, and hunted rabbits.
- Their populations were small.

The Plateau

- Located north of Great Basin
 - More rainfall than Great Basin
 - More forests than Great Basin
 - Crossed by rivers brimming with salmon and other fish
- Groups such as the Nez Percé lived in villages along the rivers.

Regional Differences among Native Americans

The Great Plains

- Home to the Sioux, Pawnee, and Cheyenne
- Flat land with prairie grasses and tree-lined rivers
- Herds such as elk and bison grazed there.
- Had to hunt buffalo—farming was difficult with tough grass roots
- The Caddo and Wichita lived in fertile farm valleys.

The Eastern Woodlands

- Thick forests
- Because travel was difficult, groups developed their own traditions, tools, and (often) languages.
- The Iroquois included several groups who shared a culture and language. They lived in **longhouses**.
- The Chippewa, Fox, and Sauk also lived in the region. They spoke Algonquian languages.
- Plenty of meat, furs, and fish

The Southeast

- Most lived in settled farming villages.
- They had a warm climate with plenty of rain; this allowed them to grow several crops a year.
- Many groups lived here, including the Choctaw.
- They lived in thatched-roof log cabins plastered with mud.

Native American Customs

Family relations

- Most villages and nations organized into clans by **kinship**
- Kinship determined inheritance, status, and marriage eligibility
- Housing arrangements and social engagements depended on the position of women.
- Iroquois society was **matrilineal**.
- In Hopi culture, a man went to live with his wife's family when he married, bringing seeds from his mother's crops.

Social and political structures

- Social organization varied greatly from group to group.
- Most clans or nations were headed by a chief. Villages were run by a council of elders.

Native American Customs

Land use

- They did not believe that land should be bought and sold.
- Some societies viewed land as a gift from the Great Spirit to be shared by the village or group for farming or hunting.
- Still, some groups warred over territory.

Division of labor

- Ancient hunter-gatherers: men and boys hunted and women and girls gathered plants, nuts, and berries
- Agricultural Revolution saw women take over planting and cultivating crops
- Southwest division of labor: women and men farmed; women cared for children, cooked, wove cloth, and made pottery and baskets; men were woodcarvers and probably metalworkers

Native American Customs

Religious beliefs

- Native Americans shared spiritual and religious ideas.
 - Belief that there was a spiritual connection to the natural world
 - In many belief systems, a tree stood at the center of the earth.
 - Animals were thought to be powerful spirits.
- Native Americans told many stories.
 - Some explained the creation of the world or the origin of their peoples.
 - Other stories were about spirits and crops, rivers or other aspects of nature.

Trading Networks Link Native American Societies

Native Americans usually traded by a barter system.

Reasons for trade

- Specialization began.
- Farmers could grow extra crops.
- Others could access needed minerals.
- People living near water traded shells or pearls.
- Artisans traded their creations.

Trading Networks

- Hopewell trade network covered two-thirds of the United States.
- It could take years to bring items back to Ohio (long distances and travel difficulty).
- The Hopewell people obtained bear's teeth, obsidian, copper, mica, and shells through trade.
- Travel made by canoe and on foot

Exchange of Ideas

- The trade networks carried ideas from place to place.
- Mississippians may have borrowed temple mounds and pyramids from Mesoamericans.
- Pueblo peoples' religious ideas and ritual costumes came from Mexico.

West African Trading Kingdoms

Trans-Saharan trade

- Despite the danger, trading caravans have crossed Sahara since ancient times.
- African interior had gold and ivory; Arabs from North Africa traded salt from mines.
- Great trading empires thrived in the grasslands near the Niger River.
- Desert traders also brought Islam to West Africa.

West African Trading Kingdoms

Ghana

- Earliest West African trading state (arose around AD 300)
- Located on a gold and salt route
- Grew wealthy and powerful
- History passed down through **oral tradition**
- Did not convert to Islam

Mali

- **Mansa Musa** most famous ruler
- People of Mali were **Muslims**.
- When Mansa Musa made a pilgrimage to Mecca, the outside world knew of Mali's wealth.

Songhai

- This kingdom became larger than Ghana or Mali.
- **Askia Muhammad**, most famous Songhai ruler, encouraged Muslim learning.

West African Trading Kingdoms

Coastal kingdoms

- By 1300, the settlement of Benin became a powerful state.
 - Grew rich from foreign trade
 - Famous for its brilliant artists
- Farther south, the kingdom of Kongo was growing.
 - Thrived by trading salt and palm oil

Kingdoms of East Africa

Trade Important to Growth

- East Africans traded with Egypt, India, and the Middle East.
- East African trading ships sailed the Red Sea and Indian Ocean.
- East Africa had gold, cinnamon, rhinoceros horn and tortoise shell. They also shipped enslaved Africans.
- They bought porcelain, silk, and jewels from India and China.

Arabian Influence

- Arabia was a strong influence along East African coast.
- Arab merchants settled in coastal cities and brought their customs and Islam.
- New culture and new language (Swahili) developed in East Africa.

EUROPE - The Middle Ages

- The Middle Ages (AD 500 to 1500) began when the Roman Empire collapsed and created widespread lawlessness.

Feudalism and the manorial system

- Invaders occupied Spain and attacked other nations in central Europe. Vikings raided the northern coasts of Europe.
- Feudal system developed when local nobles gave parcels of land from their large estates to vassals, or nobles of lower rank. The vassals pledged their loyalty and military service to the lords.

The Middle Ages

The Crusades

- Roman Catholic Pope Urban called on Christian kings and knights to recapture the Holy Land from Muslim Turks. Thousands answered his call to the holy wars, known as the Crusades.
- The Muslims kept their lands, but the wars allowed Europeans to experience new lands and people and boosted trade between Europe and the Middle East.
- Wealthy European merchants and artisans made up a growing middle class.

The Middle Ages

New nation-states

- Many nobles lost their fortunes in the Crusades; the new middle-class townspeople did not owe loyalty to a feudal lord.
- Kings gave towns charters and collected taxes. England, France, and Spain began creating nation-states with strong central governments and homogeneous populations.
- King John of England was forced to sign the **Magna Carta**, a document that established several principles of government:
 - No taxation without representation
 - The right to trial by a jury of one's peers
 - These rights were gradually extended to ordinary people.