

# Unit 1: Beginnings of American History

Prehistory-1500

# **CHAPTER 1: ROOTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE**

Section 1:  
The Earliest Americans

# The First Americans

- The \_\_\_\_\_ Theory
- -10,000-100,000 years ago- much of the world was in \_\_\_\_\_
- -covered by \_\_\_\_\_
- -more \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ dropped
- -shallow waters \_\_\_\_\_
- - \_\_\_\_\_ - between Alaska and Siberia- was once land
- -between 10,000 and 30,000 years ago the first humans crossed the \_\_\_\_\_ into North America
- -probably following \_\_\_\_\_ - ex: Woolly Mammoth
- -spread throughout Americas over \_\_\_\_\_

# The First Americans

- Other Theories
- - \_\_\_\_\_ - people followed the Pacific coast by boat
- -many Native American groups

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- -often

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- - \_\_\_\_\_ Land Bridge or Coastal Route theories

# The First Americans

- Learning to \_\_\_\_\_
  - -eventually \_\_\_\_\_ - had been source of life
  - -people became \_\_\_\_\_
  - -about 8000 years ago people in Mexico
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- -changed EVERYTHING
  - -in dry areas people learned
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- -people also learned to \_\_\_\_\_ - cattle, sheep, llamas
  - -led to \_\_\_\_\_
  - - farming → surplus (more than needed) of food → trade → wealth → division of labor → cities → civilization (advanced culture in which people have developed cities, science, and industries)
  - -3 major civilizations- \_\_\_\_\_

# Three Civilizations

- Mayas
- -250 AD- 900 AD- \_\_\_\_\_
- - \_\_\_\_\_ - plazas, pyramids, temples, ball courts, palaces
- -arts, government, system of writing, studied stars- created \_\_\_\_\_
- -carved stories onto walls
- -900 AD- Mayans began abandoning cities- still a mystery
- -overpopulation?
- -disease?
- -Mayan language is the root of over 20 native languages still spoken today

# Three Civilizations

- Aztecs
- -rose during \_\_\_\_\_
- -capital city- \_\_\_\_\_
- -built on series of islands in a lake
- - \_\_\_\_\_ connected islands to mainland
- -farmers raised crops on \_\_\_\_\_
- -population around 200,000- \_\_\_\_\_
- -city center dominated by temple- Aztec religion very important in every day life
- - \_\_\_\_\_ to please gods daily
- -1400s- Aztecs controlled most of Mexico- harshly
- -conquered people had to send \_\_\_\_\_ to Aztec capital
- -would later turn on Aztecs and contribute to their fall

# Three Civilizations

- Incas
- - \_\_\_\_\_ - covered most of South America
- -capital- \_\_\_\_\_ connected to the rest of the empire by fine roads
- -accomplishments:

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