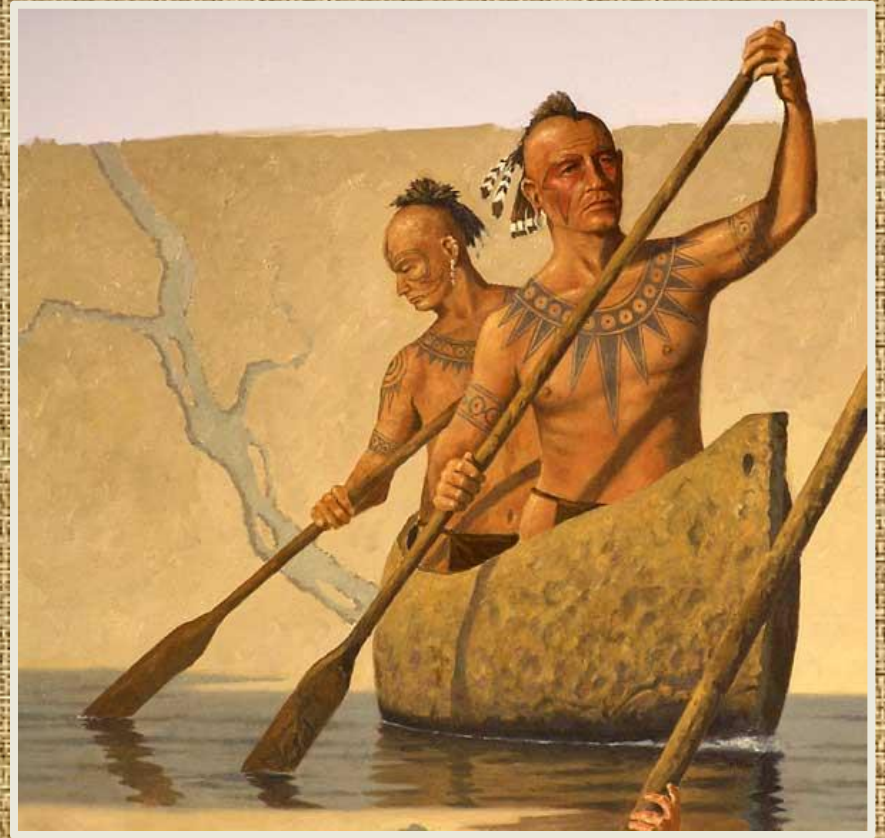


# The Native American Experience



# **NATIVE PEOPLE AND GROUPS**

# The First Americans

Archaeologists believe that migrants from Asia crossed a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska sometime between 13,000 and 3,000 B.C

**First Wave: 15,000~9,000 Years Ago**

- ❖ Land Bridge Submerged After Glaciers Melted

**Second Wave: 8,000 Years Ago**

- ❖ Travelled By Water In Same Area
- ❖ Ancestors of Navajo and Apache Peoples

**Third Wave: 5,000 Years Ago**

- ❖ Ancestors of Aluet and Inuit Peoples

After people migrated southward, many settled in central Mexico, the Andes Mountains, and the North American Mississippi Valley.



Around 6,000 B.C., some Native American peoples began to raise domesticated crops, which led to a large population growth.

# American Empires

Two great empires, the Aztecs and the Incas, dominated the Andes and Mesoamerica.

## The Aztec Empire

The Mexica Triple Alliance, or Aztec Empire, began as an alliance between the city-states of Tenochtitlan, Texcoco, and Tlacopan. The empire expanded and thrived around the Mexican Valley, with Tenochtitlan at its heart. Conquistadores came, and under Hernán Cortés in 1521, the empire was defeated.

Europeans who first visited Tenochtitlan were surprised by its size, wealth, and beauty.



# American Empires

Two great empires, the Aztecs and the Incas, dominated the Andes and Mesoamerica.



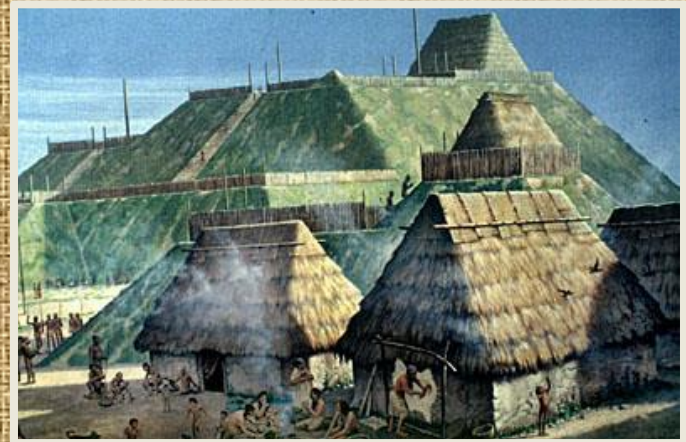
## The Incan Empire

The Incan capital of Cuzco, near the Andes Mountains, was slightly less impressive in size compared to Tenochtitlan but was still magnificent for its time.

The Incan Empire, centered at Cuzco in modern-day Peru, controlled the western part of South America before being discovered in the sixteenth century. Known for its widespread trade, use of roads, and its many temples, this rich civilization was defeated by Conquistadores such as Francisco Pizarro in the mid-late sixteenth century.

# The Mississippi Valley

The spread of maize to the Mississippi Valley led to the development of a large-scale culture and more social organization than before. The center of this Mississippian culture was Cahokia, until it began to decline after 1350.



When Europeans arrived, however, Mississippian culture was still evident in the Southeast.

# Eastern Woodlands

The Mississippians of the Southeast interacted with groups in the woodlands, spreading primarily maize agriculture.

Algonquian and Iroquoian speakers shared a similar language and lifestyle but were broken into smaller groups.. Many lived in villages around fields of maize, beans, and squash during the summertime. At other times of the year, they broke into smaller groups to become hunters and gatherers.

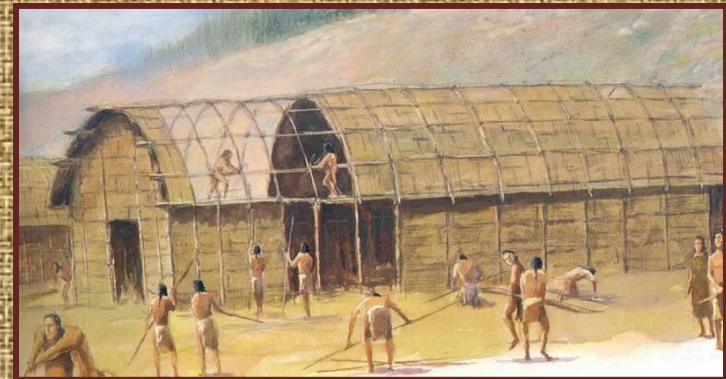
Styles of Political Organization Among Tribes:

Chiefdoms

- ❖ One Individual Has Power
  - ❖ Powhatan Chiefdom

Council of Sachems

- ❖ Multiple Leaders
  - ❖ Iroquois Confederacy



# The Great Lakes

Algonquian-speaking natives in the Great Lakes area considered themselves to be part of the Anishinaabe. Waterways were common in their homelands, leading to the use of birchbark canoes as means of transportation.



People traveled long ways in order to hunt, fish, trade, attend ceremonies, and forge alliances.

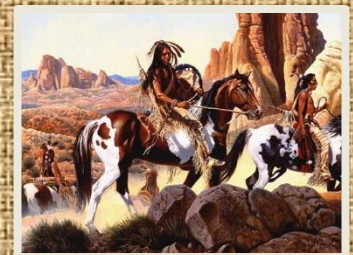
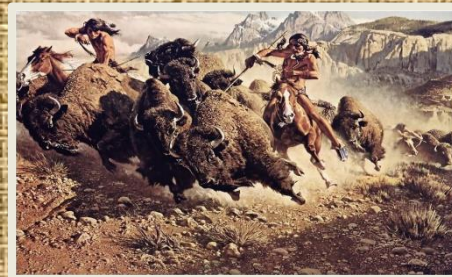
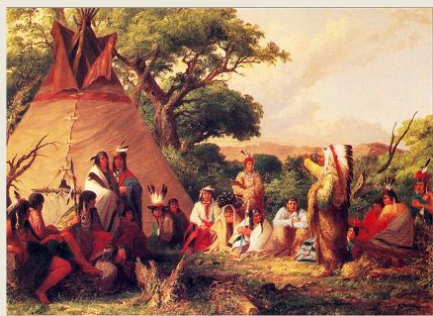




# The Great Plains and Rockies

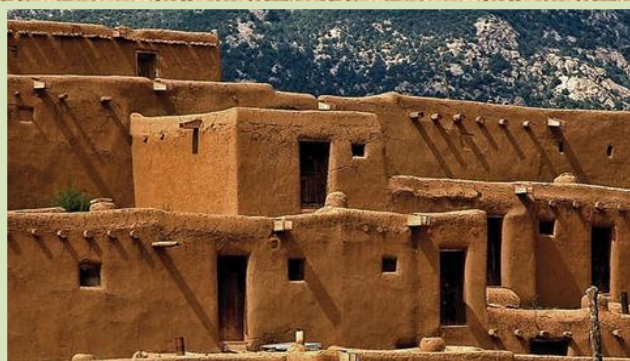
Livestock and horses were introduced to the peoples of the Great Plains by Europeans. The use of horses gave warriors and hunters more power, such as the Comanches had. It made hunting bison on the plains easier and more successful and it also led the Comanches to conquer other smaller areas that did not share their luxury. The Crow and Sioux were able to expand and prosper as well.

In some places, farming and hunting-gathering were both used in order to provide food.

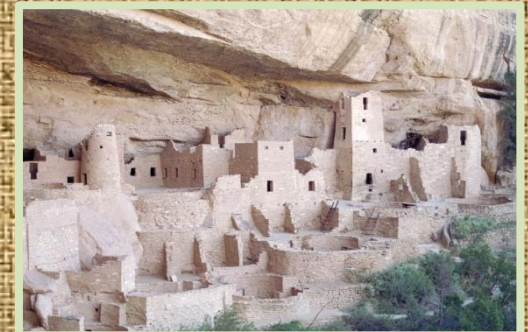


# The Arid Southwest

Large farming settlements were actually able to work among the arid landscape. This area also saw the rise of the Anasazi and Pueblo cultures.

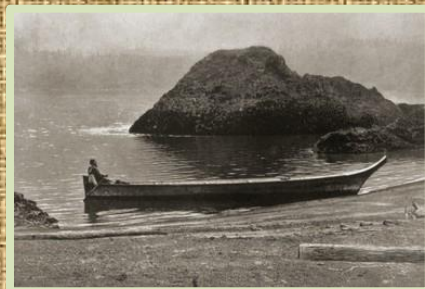


While drought caused many to leave the area after 1150, smaller groups remained and were present when Europeans explored the area.



# The Pacific Coast

Hunter-gatherers were frequently found in this area. Over 300,000 people gathered in small groups called this area home, and many diverse languages existed.



Aspects of culture included strong warriors, large longhouses, and totem poles.

**TRADE**

# Patterns of Trade

Regions were tied together while goods and ideas were able to travel due to trade networks across the land.

## Traded Goods:

- ❖ Food
- ❖ Raw Materials
- ❖ Tools
- ❖ Ritual Artifacts
- ❖ Decorative Goods



Regional networks allowed groups to share resources while longer distances often saw the trade of larger and more valuable objects.

Often, leaders held the most wealth in a group but redistributed it to their followers. This not only showed their generosity but also strengthened their authority as a good leader.



**SACRED POWER**

# Sacred Power

Most natives were animists and believed that the world had spiritual power. Interpreting dreams and visions helped them to understand their world and rituals helped to maintain good relations with the spirits.

## Women

- ❖ Grew Crops
- ❖ Maintained the Home and Village
- ❖ Gave Life



## Men

- ❖ Hunted
  - ❖ Animal Rituals
- ❖ Participated in Warfare

