Chapter 1: The World Before the Opening of the Atlantic

• Students will identify Native American Societies that developed across Mesoamerica and South America

• Students will analyze many divers Native American cultures that developed across the different geographic regions of North America
Climate changes allowed people to migrate to the Americas.

Movement of peoples from one region to another is called migration.
Climate Affects Early Peoples

- **hunter-gatherers:**
  - hunted animals and gathered wild plants.

- Warming climate = new **environments:**
  - climates and landscapes that surround living things.

- Different environments = development of Native American **societies:**
  - groups that share a common culture.

- **Culture**
  - a group’s common values and traditions.
OLMEC

- Developed around 1200 BC in Mesoamerica
- Known for use of stone in architecture and built the first pyramids in the Americas
- Civilization ended around 400 BC
MAYA

- Developed after the Olmec
- By AD 200, were building large cities
- Created great pyramids, temples, palaces, and bridges
- Civilization ended around AD 900
The ancient Maya city of Palenque was a major power on the border between the Maya highlands and lowlands. Its great temples and plazas were typical of the Classic Age of Maya civilization.
AZTEC

- Conquered central Mexico

- Founded capital city, Tenochtitlán in AD 1325. It became the greatest city in the Americas and one of the world’s largest cities

- By the early 1500s, they ruled the most powerful state in Mesoamerica
INCA

• Began as a small tribe in the Andes Mountains in South America
• Capital city was Cuzco
• By the 1500s, the empire stretched along much of the western South American coast
• Known for a strong central government, their architecture, and their art
1. Location  Which early civilization was located in Mesoamerica?
2. Human-Environment Interaction  Why do you think Peru was settled after Mexico?
ANASAZI

- Grew maize, beans, and squash
- Developed irrigation methods
- Lived in **pueblos**, aboveground houses made of heavy clay called adobe
- Built **kivas**, underground ceremonial chambers, for religious ceremonies
- Began to abandon villages around AD 1300
ANASAZI

KIVAS

pueblos
Mound Building Cultures

Hopewell

- Lived in Mississippi, Ohio, and lower Missouri river valleys
- Supported population with agriculture and trade
- Built large burial mounds to honor the dead
Mound Building Cultures

Mississippian

- Developed later in same area as the Hopewell

- Built hundreds of mounds topped with temples for religious ceremonies
Geographic Areas Influenced Native American Cultures

- Researchers use culture areas to help describe ancient Native American peoples.
- Culture areas are geographic locations that influence society.
- North America is divided into several culture areas, including the Far North, Pacific Coast, California, West, Southwest, Great Plains, and East.
Native American Culture Areas

1. **Region** Why did some culture areas have fewer groups of people than other culture areas did?
2. **Human-Environment Interaction** What natural features served as boundaries between culture areas?
North and Northwest Culture Areas

• **Arctic**
  - Long, cold winters and short summers
  - Inuit peoples in present-day Alaska and Canada
  - Aleut peoples in Alaska
  - Fished and hunted large mammals
North and Northwest Culture Areas

• **Subarctic**
  - Long, cold winters and short summers
  - Dorqrib and Montagnais peoples
  - Hunters followed migrating deer
  - People lived in temporary shelters made of animal skins.
North and Northwest Culture Areas

- **Pacific Northwest**
  - Carved images of totems, ancestor or animal spirits, on tall, wooden poles
  - Held feasts called potlatches
  - Thrived on abundant game animals, fish, and wild plants
West and Southwest Culture Areas

- **California**
- Many food sources, such as acorns, fish, and deer
- People lived in isolated family groups of 50 to 300.
- More than 100 different languages were spoken.
- Groups included the Hupa, Miwok and Yukots.
West and Southwest Culture Areas

- **Southwest**
- Dry climate
- Groups included the Apache, Navajo, and Pueblo.
- The Pueblo irrigated land to grow crops.
- The Apache and Navajo hunted game and raided the villages of other groups.
Great Plains and Eastern Culture Areas

- **Great Plains**
  - Stretched from Canada to Texas and from the Mississippi Valley to the Rocky Mountains
  - Mainly grasslands, with game such as buffalo
  - Used buffalo skins for shields, clothing and coverings for *teepees*, cone-shaped shelters
  - *Matrilineal* societies that traced ancestry through their mothers, not their fathers
  - Groups included the Mandan, Pawnee, Arapaho, Blackfoot, and Comanche.
Great Plains and Eastern Culture Areas

• **Northeast and Southeast**

  • Region rich in sources of food and shelter

  • Southeastern groups, such as the Cherokee and Creek, lived in farming villages.

• The Algonquian and Iroquois were the main groups in the Northeast.

• The Iroquois formed the **Iroquois League**, a confederation that waged war against non-Iroquois peoples.
Iroquois Longhouse

Northeastern Native Americans such as the Iroquois lived in longhouses made of tree bark. The drawing shows the longhouses in one Iroquois village.

Why do you think a fence was placed around the longhouses?
Native American cultures shared beliefs about religion and land ownership

• Shared religious beliefs
  – Religion linked to nature
  – Spiritual forces were everywhere—even plants and animals

• Shared beliefs about property
  – Individual ownership applied only to the crops one grew
  – Land was for the use of everyone in the village
  – Believed they should preserve the land for future generations

• Despite shared beliefs, Native Americans on the North American continent were independent culture groups and did not form large empires.