Migration to America

OBJECTIVE: TO LEARN ABOUT PRE-COLONIAL NATIVE AMERICANS
Migration Theories

- Predominate theory – Humans came over land bridge between 15,000 to 30,000 years ago.
- Native American theory – Always been here.
- Boat Theory - Hawaii
Ice Age

- Early on, humans were hunters and gathers or nomads (people who continually move from place to place).
- About 10,000 years ago, the climate warmed. The result of this was Native Americans began to settle down and grow crops.
Early Civilizations in America

- Native Americans began to grow pumpkins, peppers, squash, beans, and corn.
- As villages became bigger, forms of government developed, as did social classes.
- Villages came together to form civilizations (a highly organized society marked by advanced knowledge of trade, government, the arts, science, and often, written language).
Mesoamerica

- Olmec were believed to be the first people to create a civilization in America.
- This happened between 1500 and 1200 BC in present day southern Mexico.
Maya

- Mayan culture emerged around AD 200 in the Yucatan Peninsula.
- They were advanced in engineering and mathematics.
- Developed an accurate calendar.
- Famous cities were Tikal and Chichen Itza.
- Demise unknown
Aztec

1325, Aztec established their capital city of Tenochtitlan, at the sight of present day Mexico City.

They conquered nearby tribes to create an empire.

By 1500s, roughly 5 million people were part of the Aztec Empire.

Aztecs grew maize, beans, potatoes, squash, tomatoes, and avocados.

Also hunted turkeys, rabbits, snakes, coyotes, and armadillos.

Had an advanced irrigation system to irrigate crops.
Aztec Culture

- Had a strict caste system. Nobles were at the top followed by serfs, indentured servants and slaves.
- They were polytheistic. Chief gods included Huitzilopochtli the god of war and sun, and Quetzalcoatl, who served many different roles.
- Practiced human sacrifice to appease the gods.
- Like the Maya, the Aztec had a 365 day calendar.
American Southwest

- Hohokam began farming in present day Arizona around 300 AD.
- They used an irrigation system to grow corn, cotton, and beans.
- Anasazi civilization developed around 700 AD.
- Built basins and ditches to collect rain water.
- Constructed pueblos for housing.
Mound Builders

- Hopewell culture developed around 200 BC in present day Ohio.
- They were well known for their earth mounds that served as burial places.
- Mississippian people created the city of Cahokia around 900 AD.
- Town held roughly 16,000 people.
- Like the Hopewell, the Adena culture built earth mounds as well.
Far North and Pacific Tribes

- Inuit inhabited from present day Alaska to Greenland.
- They hunted Seals, whales, walruses, polar bears, and caribou.
- Only Native Americans that developed lamps

- Kwakiutl and Chinook tribes live around present day Washington.
- They lived mostly on coast and fished for food.
- Other tribes such as Nez Perce and Yakima lived further inland.
- They fished, hunted deer, and gathered roots and berries for food.
Southwest and Great Plains

- Zuni and Hopi were descendants of the Anasazi and Hohokam tribes.
- Believed in a spirit world.
- Apache were primarily nomadic hunters.
- Navajo settled down into farming villages.
- Tribes such as the Sioux (Dakota) and Pawnee were nomadic hunters that depended on the buffalo for food.
- Once they gained access to horses from the Spanish, they were able to cover more ground.
The Eastern Woodlands

- Iroquois forested lands and grew crops on the cleared land in the Northeastern United States.
- They built longhouses that could house up to ten families.
- After many years of conflict, five tribes formed an alliance and became the Iroquois League.
- Ruling council was all male although women did have considerable political influence.
Assignment

- Read pages 12-16
- #1-3 on page 16