Native American Farming Cultures

During the height of the Olmec and Maya civilizations of Middle America, farming cultures began to develop in two regions of what are today the United States and northern Mexico.

- Early farming groups along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers had similar cultures and built large structures called mounds.
- In the 700s A.D. these cultures were replaced by other mound-building farmers who became known as "Mississippian" people, named for the river.
- Native Americans developed two early farming cultures in the western deserts. They were influenced by the civilizations of Middle America.
- Around 700 A.D. a new culture developed southeast of the Colorado River. They built pueblos, unique dwellings many stories high.

Hunting and gathering provide food for non-farming cultures.

Corn, beans, and squash become the main foods of these farming cultures.

Pueblos were like modern-day apartment buildings. Dwellings were made of stone or adobe and could be up to four stories high. Ladders linked one floor to the next.

Mississippian mounds are often built in the shapes of animals.

Need roommates for your pueblo?
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Mounds were built of dirt and stone. Like these at Cahokia, mounds were built for religious ceremonies, for burying the dead, or to house local officials.

The Pueblo and the Mound Builders both developed large, structured communities. The mound-building community of Cahokia had a population of more than 10,000 people at its height in 1300. Find Cahokia on the map.
Aztec Empire

The Aztec migrated from the north to a small island in the Valley of Mexico. They built one of the largest empires of Middle America.
- Religion dominated every part of Aztec life. The Aztec worshipped hundreds of gods and performed many kinds of religious ceremonies.
- The Aztec were fierce warriors. They waged war to expand their empire.
- The Spanish came to Mexico in 1519. They conquered the Aztec Empire in 1521 and destroyed its capital.

The Aztec capital city, shown here, had many temples and public buildings for religious ceremonies. Look at map B. What is the name of the Aztec capital?

Inca Empire

Around the same time the Aztec were building their empire, the Inca developed a large empire in South America.
- The Inca built an empire that extended through the Andes Mountains and along the west coast.
- They were excellent architects and engineers and built a vast network of roads and bridges. These helped their strong central government control even the most remote parts of the empire.
- The Spanish came to South America in 1532. They killed the Inca Emperor and took over the Empire.

Powerful emperors greatly expanded Inca territory in less than 100 years. By 1525 the empire stretched 2,600 miles.

Aztec and Inca Contributions

- Aztec: Built large limestone pyramids for religious ceremonies.
- Inca: Built enormous stone buildings with great precision.
- Aztec: Used pictographs to record history and myths.
- Inca: Spread news throughout the Empire using a messenger system.
- Aztec: Created floating gardens to grow food without using additional land areas.
- Inca: Connected the Empire using an extensive network of roads.

The Inca city of Machu Picchu, whose ruins are shown here, was a fortress built on a mountaintop. It could be reached only by crossing a bridge. If enemies were near, the bridge could be removed.
Europeans Explore and Settle in the Americas

Early European explorers searching for the Indies found unexpected opportunities in the Americas. By 1750, Europeans controlled most of the Americas.

- Europeans established colonies in the Americas and looked for ways to make a profit from the land and its resources.
- European colonization led to the conquest of Native American peoples, including the Aztec and Inca Empires.
- As European land claims expanded, Native Americans lost control of their traditional lands.

What is colonization?
Colonization is the act of a country claiming, ruling, and settling its people in a territory outside its boundary. The territory is called a "colony."
Three Worlds Meet

European colonization of the Americas changed the lives of millions of people throughout the world. When Europeans and Africans came to the Americas, three separate "worlds," or cultures, were brought together.

- European ships carried plants and animals across the Atlantic Ocean in both directions. People on both sides of the Atlantic encountered goods that they had never seen before.

- As Europeans settled in the Americas, they often forced Native Americans to work for them. Millions of Native Americans died from overwork or disease.

- As the Native American population declined, Europeans began capturing, enslaving, and bringing Africans to the Americas to work as slaves.

Diseases brought from Europe, such as smallpox and measles, killed millions of Native Americans who had no resistance to them. This drawing shows Native Americans dying of smallpox.

Before Columbus established lasting European contact with the Americas, only Native Americans raised corn. Today corn is grown throughout the world. Name three foods that are not originally from the Americas.

Columbian Exchange

C The Americas to Colonial Times | UNIT 6

Top 10 Colonial Cities, 1500

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>City (Modern Country)</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Beijing (China)</td>
<td>672,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vijayanagar (India)</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cairo (Egypt)</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hangzhou (China)</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tabriz (Iran)</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Constantinople (Turkey)</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Gaur (India)</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Paris (France)</td>
<td>185,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Canton (China)</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Nanjing (China)</td>
<td>147,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1500 none of the world's largest cities was in the Americas. However, cities grew as more people from other regions came to the Americas. Turn to page 121 and compare the cities in this table with the top ten cities of 2000.

In the Americas, Indian slaves die off early and are replaced with Africans.

Slavery is abolished in Brazil in 1888.

Nearly 12 million enslaved Africans are brought to the Americas.

Atlantic Slave Trade

Nearly 12 million Africans were enslaved and brought to the Americas. They worked mainly on plantations producing sugar, cotton, and tobacco. Where were more enslaved Africans sent than to any other place?
Early Civilizations of Africa

Many different cultures developed in Africa. Two early black African cultures developed around 3000 B.C. A civilization known as Kush developed in northeastern Africa. Bantu cultures developed in West Africa.

- The kingdom of Kush was located along the Nile River in the region of Nubia. Kush is often called Nubia.
- The Kushite civilization became a center for African learning, culture, and trade.
- Bantu people gradually spread farming and ironworking into central and southern Africa.

Kush was a major trading center linking Central Africa, the Mediterranean region, Arabia, and India. Goods and ideas were exchanged between cultures through Kush.

These tiles, which show a Kushite in the center, were found in Egypt. Kush and Egypt influenced each other for 2,500 years.

For about 1,500 years, the Bantu migrated south, mixing with original culture groups across the region. The Bantu brought a new way of life to southern Africa.

Who is descended from the Bantu?
Descendants of the Bantu live in central and southern Africa. They speak related languages that belong to more than 300 distinct culture groups, including the Swahili, Zulu, and Kikuyu people.

This farmer in southern Africa is a descendant of Bantu farmers who migrated to the region at least a thousand years ago.