

Chapter **1** Section 1 (pages 27–31)

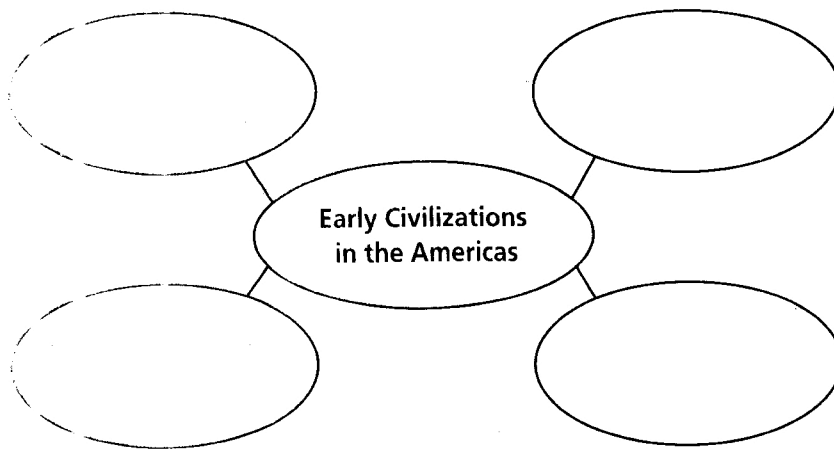
Crossing to the Americas

BEFORE YOU READ

In this section, you will read how ancient peoples came to the Americas and, as time passed, developed complex civilizations.

AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes on the theories scientists have about how and when the first Americans migrated to the Americas.



TERMS & DEFINITIONS

archaeologist A scientist who studies the past by studying artifacts

artifact Tool or other object that humans made

migrate To move

culture A way of life shared by a group of people

domestication Breeding plants or taming animals to meet human needs

civilization A complex culture that has 1) cities, 2) specialized jobs, 3) organized government and religion, 4) a system of record keeping, 5) advanced tools

irrigation The practice of bringing water to crops

Mound Builder Early Native American who built large earthen structures

The First People in America (pages 27–28)

What are two theories explaining how the first Americans migrated from Asia?

Scientists think that the first Americans **migrated**, or moved, to the Americas from Asia. There are two *theories* about how and when this move took place.

One theory is that ancient people crossed a land bridge joining Asia and North America. They came during the last Ice Age some 12,000 years ago. The extreme cold of the Ice Age created glaciers. This made the water levels in the oceans drop. Beringia, a bridge of land, appeared where the Bering Strait is now. After the Ice Age, the glaciers melted. The melted water flooded Beringia.

Another theory is that humans came to the Americas by many routes. They migrated over thousands of years. Some people came by boat. They sailed from island to island. **Archaeologists** who believe this theory point to **artifacts**, or human-made

objects, found in South America. Tests show the artifacts to be 30,000 years old.

1. Name two ways the first Americans may have migrated to the Americas from Asia.

Agriculture Leads to Civilization

(pages 28–29)

What are five features of a civilization?

A **culture** is a way of life shared by a group of people with similar arts, beliefs, and customs. The first Americans lived in hunting and gathering cultures. They hunted animals and gathered seeds and berries.

People started to plant the seeds they found. This was the beginning of agriculture. About 5,000 years ago, humans began **domestication**. They bred plants and tamed animals.

Agriculture spread across the Americas. It created a stable food supply. This changed people's lives. They didn't have to travel to find food. They built lasting villages. Large harvests meant fewer people had to farm. Some people practiced crafts. Some became religious leaders.

In time, some cultures became civilizations. A **civilization** has five features. 1) It has cities that are trade centers. 2) Its people have *specialized jobs*. 3) It has organized government and religion. 4) It uses a system of record keeping. 5) It uses advanced tools.

2. Name the five features of a civilization.

Early Mesoamerican Civilizations

(page 29)

What were two advanced civilizations in early Mesoamerica?

About 1200 B.C., a great civilization rose in Mesoamerica. This region stretches from central Mexico to Nicaragua. A people called the Olmec lived there. They set up many trade routes. They built pyramids of earth and large cities. Olmec culture spread along trade routes. It influenced other cultures.

By A.D. 250, the Maya had a great civilization. They had cities in southern Mexico and Guatemala. They built pyramid mounds. Temples stood on top of the mounds. The Maya kept accurate calendars. They created a number system using zero. They had a written language.

3. What were the advances of the Olmec and the Maya?

The Hohokam and the Anasazi

(pages 29–31)

Why were the Hohokam able to farm in their dry environment?

The Hohokam lived in what is now Arizona. They lived from about 300 B.C. to A.D. 1400. The Hohokam changed their environment. They dug hundreds of

miles of canals to carry river water to their crops. This is called **irrigation**.

The Anasazi lived in the area where Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico meet. They moved there about A.D. 100. They were farmers and traders. Their houses had hundreds of rooms and many stories.

4. How did the Hohokam alter their dry environment?

The Mound Builders (page 31)

Who were the Mound Builders?

The **Mound Builders** lived in the eastern part of what is now the United States. The Mound Builders were early Native Americans who built large earthen mounds. There were several groups of Mound Builders.

The Adena and the Hopewell were the two oldest Mound Builder societies. Little is known about the Adena. The Hopewell were located in what is now the Midwest. They lived from 400 B.C. to A.D. 400. They grew corn and had a large trade network. Hopewell mounds served as burial sites. Their tombs contained gifts for the dead.

The last group of Mound Builders was the Mississippians. They lived from A.D. 800 to 1700. They built some of the first cities in North America. In some cities, they built flat-topped, pyramid-shaped temple mounds. By the 1700s, most of the Mississippians had died from diseases. They caught the diseases from Europeans.

5. Who were the Adena, the Hopewell, and the Mississippians?
