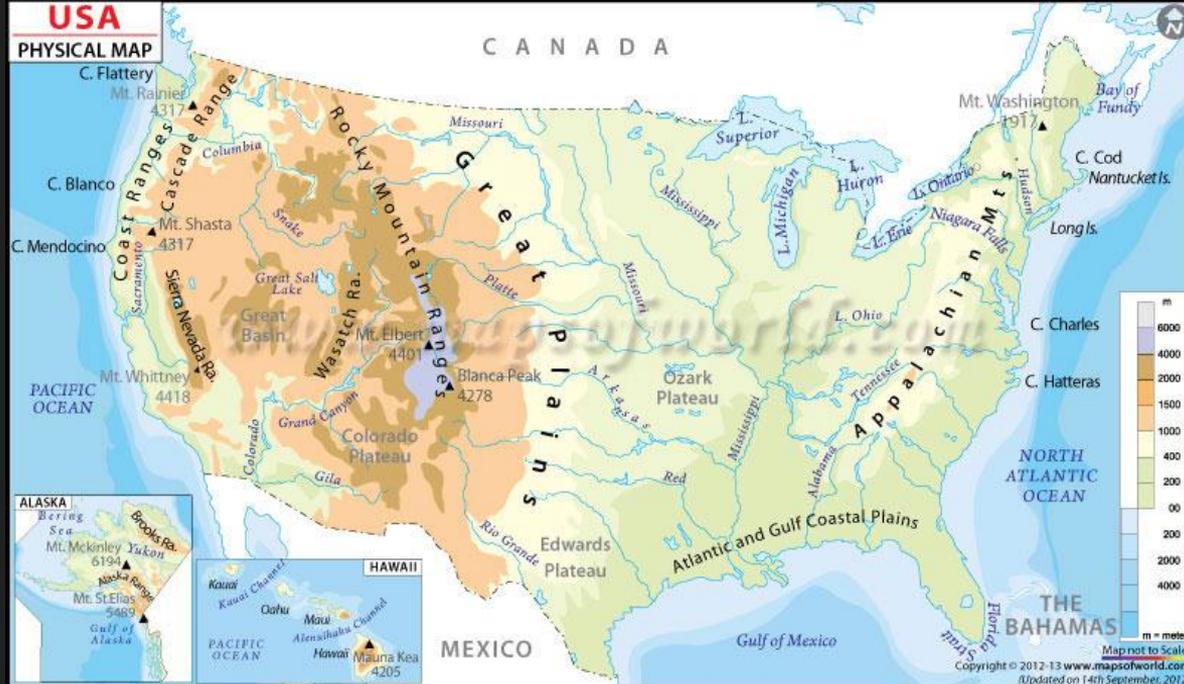


Unit One: Early Native and Colonial Societies (1491-1754)

Chapter One: Pre-Columbian Societies

AP US History: An Essential Coursebook (2nd Ed)

Environment and Geography



How did physical features affect where people lived?

The Big Picture: Early Native and Colonial Societies (1491-1754)

- The two hemispheres of the world were at last joined in sustained contact, with the North American colonies integral to the process. As a result, world trade networks greatly enlarged, creating a wealth of power base that the new Americans used to forge a new identity.
- The natural environment of North America changed drastically, as imported domestic animals and European customs altered native farming habits. Much land was cleared for farming and population compositions changed as disease spread to previously isolated people.

- Economic changes in North America were numerous, as slavery and other forced labor systems expanded into the new world to become central to its economic activities.
- The new American identity was based on a growing sense of separation from Europe, a process that created the unity necessary to become a nation. However, that identity also developed with social, economic, and political divisions in place that later created serious issues that nearly ripped the country apart.

Chapter 1: Pre-Columbian Societies

Estimation: from 35,000 - 15,000 yrs. ago

Nomadic hunters

Central Mexico - maize, squash, and beans

Andes Mountains - potatoes

Central Mexico and Andes became large complex societies



Early Mesoamericans

Farmed - beans, peppers, avocados, squash, maize and tomatoes

Domesticated - turkeys, dogs (for food)

Human labor

Olmec Civilization (“Rubber People”) (1200 B.C.E - 100 B.C.E)

- Agriculture
- Drainage systems
- Raised fields
- Cities - religious and trade centers
- Traded - salt, cacao, clay, and limestone



- Olmec heartland
- Approximate limits of High Mesoamerican culture
- Aztec empire 1519
- Mayan civilization
- Mayan center

0 250 500 750 Kilometers
 0 250 500 Miles

The Maya

- Located in southern Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador.
- Ceremonial center - Kaminaljuyu
- From 300-900 CE built more than 80 ceremonial centers in the lowlands (pyramids, palaces, and temples)
- Real cities
- Peasant villages



People of Teotihuacan and the Aztecs

- Highlands of the North
- Central city - Teotihuacan (200 B.C.E.)
 - Center for religious rituals and government administration)
 - Population between 125,000 and 200,000
 - collapsed around 750 C.E.
- Toltecs
 - migrated from northwestern Mexico and unified central Mexico
 - Famous leader - Topiltzin (associated with Quetzalcoatl)
 - declined and were replaced by the Aztecs

- Aztecs

- Main city - Tenochtitlan (300,000 people at its height)
- War god - Huitzilopochtli
- Lake Texcoco (Mexico City)
- Drained swamps, constructed irrigation works, terraces and floating gardens
- Tribute system on conquered people
 - Maize, beans, other food
- Came to power through military might

- Andean Civilization

- Chavin (Peruvian coastal plain and foothills of the Andes)
 - Fish and other sea life
 - Combined dry coast and high mountain valley (thick jungle and Amazon River Basin)
 - Declined around 100 B.C.E.
- Moche
 - built society that lasted from 100 B.C.E. - 700 C.E.
 - irrigation system
 - maize, beans, manioc, sweet potatoes and coca
 - No written record

- Moche

- ceramics, gold ornaments, jewels, and textiles.
- decline could be from natural disasters (earthquake, flooding, drought)

- Incas

- 15th century
- 1100 in Cuzco (11,000 ft above sea level)
- 1430 - Consolidated political power and began an aggressive expansion (2500 miles north to south along the Andes range)
- Large and well-organized military
- system of roads and irrigation and drainage system
- runners carried messages along the roads
- Quechua language and religion cult of Cuzco
- Donation of labor for public projects
- local administrators came from the conquered



The People of North America

- Variety of people lived there (multiple languages, and lifestyles)
- Nomadic, gatherers, farmers
- Anasazi
 - used river water to irrigate crops of maize, beans, squashes, and sunflowers.
 - hot dry climate
 - periodic drought and famine
 - 700 BC - constructed permanent stone and adobe buildings (pueblos)
 - Ritual enclosures (kivas)
 - Abandoned the area in 1300





Native American Culture Areas

0 1000 2000 Miles
0 1000 2000 Kilometers

130°W 120°W 110°W 100°W 90°W

- Woodland east of the Mississippi River
 - maize and beans
 - trees and rain
 - earthen mounds (ceremonies, platforms for dwellings, and burial sites)
 - Cahokia
 - East St. Louis, Illinois
 - 80 mounds
 - Abandoned in 1300
 - Little is known about their political and social organization and religious beliefs
- By 1450, lived in small kinship-based groups, spoke a variety of languages, and practiced different customs
 - Alaska to South America - nomadic and subsistence agriculture
 - Unknown how many people lived in North America before European contact
 - diverse cultural groups, hundreds of different languages

- Environments not suited for agriculture
 - Nomadic
 - Paiutes and Shoshones (Great Basin) (Nevada and Utah)
 - hunted animals and gathered seeds and berries
 - Division of labor by gender
 - Men - hunting
 - Women - gatherers
 - Favorable climates
 - groups combined agriculture, fishing, hunting, and gathering
 - Chinooks - Washington and Oregon
 - Arikaras - Missouri River Valley
 - cultivated maize, squash, and beans
 - hunting and gathering as well
 - Settled societies
 - extended families lived together in villages
 - matrilineal descent
 - Extended families linked into clans

- Settled Societies
 - Great Plains
 - traced their lineage through patrilineal descent
- Power and Authority always rested with the men.
 - Equality appears to have existed in the hunting and gathering societies
- Iroquois
 - closest to the sophisticated organizations of the Aztecs and Incas
 - northeastern woodlands
 - Iroquois confederation was a loose alliance composed of the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas.
 - bound together by a common Iroquois language
 - political and organizational skills
 - strong military alliance

