Early American Civilizations Review: Lessons 65-74

A 1. Most historians think the indigenous peoples of North and South America migrated from North and East Asia by way of a land bridge during the last ice age. 2. These indigenous people are called Native Americans.

B 3. Native Americans had settlements throughout North and South America. 4. The geography and climate they lived in played a large role in their societies. 5. Native Americans were mainly polytheistic—believing a Great Spirit led all lesser spirits.

C 6. The Mayas and Incas built large, strong empires with complex political structures in South America, while the Aztecs did the same in Mesoamerica. 7. They created agricultural societies with highly populated urban settlements. 8. Each empire had a king, nobility, and commoners. 9. These early Americans were accomplished in astronomy, math, and architecture. 10. Some buildings of these empires still exist today.

D 11. The Maya civilization existed for over 3,000 years in Mesoamerica. 12. The Mayas used zero before the Europeans did and had a number system based on 20. 13. Their solar calendar was as accurate as ours, and they could predict sun and moon eclipses. 14. The Mayas created a system of writing, but unfortunately Spanish conquerors destroyed most of their books.

E 15. The Aztecs established an empire that existed for over 400 years in the Valley of Mexico, a swampy area ideal for fishing and farming. 16. To produce more food as the population increased, Aztec engineers built small, rectangular floating gardens created with layers of vegetation and mud.

F 17. The Inca Empire, in the Andes Mountains of South America, lasted for over 350 years. 18. At the height of their empire, Incas ruled 12 million people belonging to 100 different tribes, making it the largest empire on Earth. 19. The Incas were brilliant engineers, building 25,000 miles of roads and rope bridges.

G 20. In North America, Native American tribes lived in nomadic, fishing, or agricultural tribal societies. 21. A tribe is a group of families who agree to live as a community over generations. 22. Tribes had their own languages, customs, and rules. 23. Many tribes had slaves, who were captives of battles with neighboring tribes.

H 24. Tribes who lived on the coasts, or near water, were fishermen, hunters, and gatherers. 25. Northeast tribes fished from the Atlantic Ocean and Great Lakes shores. 26. California and Northwest Coastal tribes collected seafood from the Pacific Ocean and rivers. 27. Tribes of the Subarctic hunted mostly caribou and trapped animals, fished, and gathered plants. 28. The Arctic peoples built villages on the Pacific or Arctic coasts and ate seafood.

I 29. Inland, some tribes were farmers. 30. Southeast tribes grew corn, beans, and tobacco but also supplemented their diet by fishing and hunting. 31. Pueblo tribes grew corn and beans. 32. They made their multi-storied homes out of adobe, with a family inhabiting each of the rooms.

J 33. Other inland tribes were nomads. 34. Plains tribes lived in a region made up of grasslands, valleys, streams, and hills. 35. They depended on buffalo to provide meat for food, skins for teepees and clothing, and dung for cooking or heat.
Great Basin and Plateau tribes were hunters, gatherers, and traders. Plateau tribes also ate salmon during the yearly winter salmon runs on the rivers.

Historians are piecing together the North and South Native American people's history using artifacts because the Native Americans did not read or write, with the exception of the Maya. The fascinating history of the Americas and its native peoples is slowly coming together, but much remains unknown.

Questions

1. Number the events in chronological order.
a. The Aztecs settle in the Valley of Mexico.
b. Asians migrate to the Americas.
c. The Maya civilization begins.
d. The Inca Empire begins.

2. Most historians believe Native Americans of North and South America:
a. have always been on those continents.
b. came from Europe.
c. traveled from Asia.
d. sailed from the South Pacific.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

3. Circle the two correct answers. Their understanding of astronomy allowed the Mayas to:
a. worship their gods.
b. create a solar calendar.
c. know when eclipses would occur.
d. accurately name the planets.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

4. Mark each statement T for true or F for false.
a. ____ Most Native Americans believed in one god.
Which sentence best supports the answer?

b. ____ It is possible today to see some of the buildings of the Mayas, Incas, and Aztecs.
Which sentence best supports the answer?

c. ____ The Mayas, Incas, and Aztecs lived in small tribal groups with very informal governing bodies.
Which sentence best supports the answer?

d. ____ The Native Americans of South America were very knowledgeable in the fields of astronomy, math, and architecture.
Which sentence best supports the answer?

5. The Aztecs increased their food supplies by:
a. building terraced gardens.
b. building floating gardens.
c. raiding neighboring peoples.
d. trading with neighboring peoples.

Which sentence best supports the answer?
6. Which early American civilization was the largest in the world?
   a. Plains tribes
   b. Inca Empire
   c. the Maya civilization
   d. Great Basin tribes

Which sentence best supports the answer?

7. Which Native American civilization had written records?
   a. Aztecs
   b. Mayas
   c. Incas
   d. none of the tribes

Which sentence best supports the answer?

8. A tribe is:
   a. a Native American family.
   b. a large family living together.
   c. a village.
   d. separate families forming a larger group.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

9. Mark each statement T for true or F for false.
   a. _____ North American tribes shared a common language and laws.
   b. _____ Historians have studied documents left by early North American tribes to learn more about them.
   c. _____ Slavery was an accepted part of life in many North American tribes.
   d. _____ All Native American tribes of North America were nomadic.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

Written Response Question

10. How did the Native Americans use nature to their advantage?

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1. a. 3  
   b. 1  
   c. 2  
   d. 4  
2. c, sentence 1  
3. b, c, sentence 13  
4. a. T, sentence 5  
   b. T, sentence 10  
   c. F, sentence 6  
   d. T, sentence 9  
5. b, sentence 16  
6. b, sentence 18  
7. b, sentence 14  
8. d, sentence 21  
9. a. F, sentence 22  
   b. F, sentence 38  
   c. T, sentence 23  
   d. F, sentence 20  
10. Key points:  

   The Plains tribes depended on the buffalo for meat, skins to cover their teepees and for clothing, and dung to burn for cooking and heat.  
   The Southeast tribes grew corn, beans, and tobacco and hunted and fished.  
   The Pueblo tribes made their homes out of adobe: sun-dried bricks made of mud.  
   The Aztec engineers built floating gardens made out of vegetation and mud.  
   The Coastal tribes and tribes close to water depended on those bodies of water for much of their food.  
   The Subarctic tribes fished, gathered plants, and hunted caribou.