

Study Guide



Chapter 1, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 28–33

NORTH AMERICAN PEOPLES

KEY TERMS

- pueblo** Village of great stone or adobe houses (page 29)
- drought** Long periods of little rainfall (page 29)
- adobe** Building material made of clay and straw; sun-dried mud brick (page 32)
- federation** Government that linked different groups (page 33)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever wondered how different Native American groups lived? Have you ever wondered what role the environment played in their cultures? How does the environment in which you live affect your life today?

In the last section, you read about the civilizations of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca. This section focuses on the different cultures that lived in North America before the Europeans arrived.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the similarities and differences among early North American societies.

Native Americans		
Location	Names	Description
West		
Southwest		
Plains		
North		
Central		
Southeast		
East		

Study Guide



Chapter 1, Section 3 (continued)

READ TO LEARN

- **Early Native Americans** (pages 28–31)

Many Native American cultures lived throughout North America. Some of them disappeared before the Europeans arrived in the 1500s. The Hohokam, Anasazi, and Mound Builders were examples of these cultures.

The Hohokam peoples lived in the desert in present-day Arizona from about A.D. 300 to A.D. 1300. They dug hundreds of miles of irrigation channels to bring water from the rivers to their fields. Artifacts such as pottery, carved stone, and shells have been found from this civilization. The shells are proof that the Hohokam traded with people from the coast.

From about A.D. 1 to A.D. 1300, the Anasazi lived in the southwest at the point where the present-day states of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado meet. They built villages, or *pueblos*, with stone or adobe houses. They also built homes in the sides of steep cliffs, called cliff dwellings. Both pueblos and cliff dwellings were villages that looked somewhat like apartment buildings. Cliff dwellings were easy to look after and were protected from the weather. *Drought*, or long periods of little rainfall, may have caused crops to die and forced the Anasazi to move. In about 1300 the Anasazi began to settle in smaller communities.

The Mound Builders were many different groups of prehistoric Native Americans who built thousands of mounds of earth, similar to pyramids, in central North America. Like the pyramids of the Maya and Aztec, some of the mounds had burial chambers and temples. According to archaeologists, the first mounds may have been built about 1000 B.C. The Adena and Hopewell peoples were some of the earliest Mound Builders. The Hopewell built mounds in the shape of animals. Artifacts were found that show the Mound Builders traded with others far away.

Cahokia, the largest settlement of Mound Builders in present-day Illinois, was built after A.D. 900 by the Mississippians. Like the civilizations of Mexico, Cahokia had one tall mound, Monks Mound, with a temple at the top. The cities were religious with priests or priest-rulers. The Mississippians may have lived near Mexico at one time, which would explain the similarities between the two cultures.

1. What were some of the characteristics of the Hohokam, the Anasazi, and the Mound Builders?

Study Guide



Chapter 1, Section 3 (continued)

• Other Native North Americans (pages 31–33)

The civilizations of the Hohokam, Anasazi, and Mound Builders disappeared and were later replaced by other Native American cultures. When Europeans arrived, there were dozens of different societies in the Americas.

The Inuit settled in the northernmost part of North America, near the Arctic Ocean. They may have been the last group to cross the land bridge into North America from Siberia. In order to survive in the cold climate, the Inuit learned to adapt. They built igloos, or low shelters made of snow blocks, and they made warm, waterproof clothing from animals to protect themselves from the weather.

Many different groups settled along the West Coast, where the climate was mild and where there was more than enough food:

- A.** Peoples of the Tlingit, Haida, and Chinook settled along the northwestern coast and used resources from the forest and the sea. They built wooden houses, made canoes, cloth, and baskets from tree bark. They fished for their main food source, salmon, with spears and traps.
- B.** Peoples of the Nez Perce and Yakima settled in the plateau region between the Cascade Mountains and Rocky Mountains. They were hunters, fishers, and gatherers who lived in earthen houses.
- C.** The Pomo settled in the central valley of present-day California. They were nomadic peoples, wandering from place to place collecting roots and seeds. The women gathered acorns and pounded them into flour.
- D.** The Ute and Shoshone traveled in search of food in the Great Basin between the Sierra Nevada and the Rocky Mountains. They made temporary shelters of branches and reeds. They ate small game, nuts, berries, roots, and some insects.

In the Southwest, descendants of the Anasazi included the Hopi, Acoma, and Zuni. They were farmers who raised maize, beans, and squash. They built *adobe* homes from sun-dried bricks made of clay and straw. The Apache and Navajo settled in the southwest after the 1500s, and hunted deer and other game. They formed communities and built square houses, called hogans. They grew maize and beans, and began raising sheep in the 1600s.

On the Great Plains, the Comanche, the Dakota and other Native Americans of the Plains used horses and spears for hunting and warfare. They were nomadic people who set up temporary villages, using tepees for shelter. The men hunted antelope, deer, and buffalo. The women grew maize, squash, and beans.

Study Guide



Chapter 1, Section 3 (continued)

The Iroquois and Cherokee peoples settled in the woodlands of eastern North America. They developed a system of governments called *federations*, which joined different groups together. The five Iroquois nations (Onondaga, Seneca, Mohawk, Oneida, and Cayuga) were at war with one another until they joined the Iroquois League, also called the Iroquois Confederacy, in the late 1500s. They wanted peace. Iroquois women owned all the land and grew all the crops. They elected the men who served on the council of the Iroquois League.

The Creek, Chicksaw, and Cherokee peoples settled in the southeast, a woodlands area with a warm climate. They were farmers in what is now Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and the Carolinas. They grew crops such as corn, tobacco, and squash.

2. What environmental factors of each region in North America influenced the cultures of the Native Americans that settled in them?
