

## Guide to Reading

## Connection

In this section, you will discover how societies in North and Middle America changed over time and how European colonies developed.

## Main Idea

- Native Americans adapted to their environments and developed diverse cultures. (p. 99)
- European countries began to explore the world and established colonies in the Americas. (p. 101)
- The French and English settled in North America, and English colonists began their own local governments. (p. 102)
- As English settlements grew, colonists developed different forms of government to regulate life in their communities. (p. 103)

- The different colonies created new social structures that were more open than those of aristocratic Europe. (p. 107)

## Content Vocabulary

civilization, joint-stock company, Pilgrim, subsistence farming, proprietary colony, indentured servant, triangular trade, slave code

## Academic Vocabulary

culture, immigrate, hierarchy

## People and Terms to Identify

Christopher Columbus, William Penn

## Places to Locate

Jamestown

## Reading Objectives

- **Explain** how the Americas were populated and became home to diverse cultures.

- **Identify** the main areas of Spanish, French, and English settlement and the reasons for English colonization.

## Reading Strategy

**Taking Notes** As you read about the early settlements of America, use the section headings to create an outline similar to the one below.

Discovery and Settlement  
 I. The Earliest Americans  
 A. Early Civilizations in America  
 B.  
 C.  
 II. European Exploration  
 A.  
 B.  
 C.  
 III.  
 IV.  
 V.

## Preview of Events

30,000

c. 28000 B.C.–13000 B.C.  
 First humans migrate to North America

1500

1492  
 Columbus claims American lands for Spain

1675

1607  
 English found Jamestown

1750

1639  
 Fundamental Orders of Connecticut adopted

The following are the main History–Social Science Standards covered in this section.

**11.1** Students analyze the significant events surrounding the founding of the nation and its attempts to realize the philosophy of government described in the Declaration of Independence.

**11.3** Students analyze the role religion played in the founding of America, its lasting moral, social and political impacts, and issues regarding religious liberty.

**11.3.1** Describe the contributions of various religious groups to American civic principles and social reform movements (e.g., civil and human rights, individual responsibility and the work ethic, antimonarchy and self-rule, worker protection, family-centered communities).

## The Big Idea

**Societies change over time.** A shift to agriculture in Middle and North America led to the development of civilizations and Native American cultures. At the same time these cultures were flourishing in the Americas, Europeans began looking for trade routes to Asia to obtain desired goods. Their search brought Europeans into contact with the Americas. Contact between Native Americans and Europeans brought the exchange of foods and ideas but also introduced new diseases. Many Native Americans died, and cultures were destroyed from disease and war between the groups. France and England focused on settling eastern North America, straining relationships with Native Americans. As the colonies continued to develop and expand, so did different forms of government and the dependency on slave labor. Trade, the growth of cities, and the increase in African Americans and immigrants led to additional changes in colonial society.

## The Earliest Americans

**Main Idea** Native Americans adapted to their environments and developed diverse cultures.

**Reading Connection** Do you remember when you started at a new school and had to get used to new ways of doing things? Read on to learn how the first American settlers adapted to their new environments.

No one knows exactly when the first people arrived in America. Scientists have pieced together many clues by studying the earth's geology and the items left by early humans.

### ★ An American Story ★

In 1925 an African American cowboy named George McJunkin was riding along a gully near the town of Folsom, New Mexico, when he noticed something gleaming in the dirt. He began digging and found a bone and a flint arrowhead. J.D. Figgins of the Colorado Museum of Natural History knew the bone belonged to a type of bison that had been extinct for 10,000 years. The arrowhead's proximity to the bones implied that human beings had been in America at least 10,000 years, which no one had believed at that time.

The following year, Figgins found another arrowhead embedded in similar bones. In 1927 he led a group of scientists to the find. Anthropologist Frank H.H. Roberts, Jr., wrote, "There was no question but that here was the evidence. . . . The point was still embedded . . . between two of the ribs of the animal skeleton." Further digs turned up more arrowheads, now called Folsom points. Roberts later noted: "The Folsom find was accepted as a reliable indication that man was present in the Southwest at an earlier period than was previously supposed."

—adapted from *The First American: A Story of North American Archaeology*

The Folsom discoveries proved that people were here at least 10,000 years ago. More recent research, however, suggests that our ancestors may have arrived much earlier—between 15,000 and 30,000 years ago.

These newcomers to America were probably nomads, people who continually move from place to place. As time passed, Native Americans learned

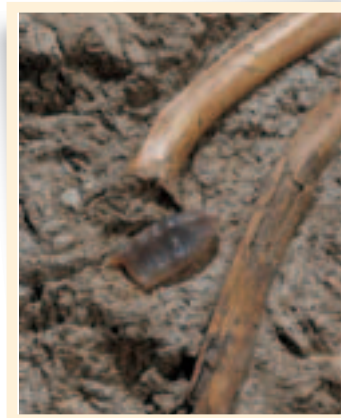
how to plant and raise crops. The shift to agriculture led to the first permanent villages and to new building methods. As early village societies became more complex, civilizations emerged. A **civilization** is a highly organized society marked by advanced knowledge of trade, government, the arts, science, and, often, written language.

**Early Civilizations in America** Anthropologists think the earliest civilization in the Americas arose between 1500 B.C. and 1200 B.C. among the Olmec people in southern Mexico. The Maya and the Aztec later developed their own civilizations in Central America, building impressive temples and pyramids and establishing trade networks. Many anthropologists believe that the agricultural technology of Mesoamerica eventually spread north into the American Southwest and beyond. Around A.D. 300, the Hohokam began farming in what is today Arizona. They and another nearby people, the Anasazi, were able to grow crops in the dry Southwest by building elaborate irrigation systems.

About the time that the Olmec civilization began in Mesoamerica, the people in North America's eastern woodlands were developing their own **cultures**. The Hopewell built huge geometric earthworks that served as ceremonial centers, observatories, and burial places. Between A.D. 700 and 900, the Mississippian people in the Mississippi River valley created Cahokia, one of the largest cities early Americans ever built.

**Native American Cultural Diversity** In the Eastern Woodlands, most Native Americans combined hunting and fishing with farming. Many different groups lived in the Eastern Woodlands, but most spoke either Algonquian or Iroquoian languages.

In the Southeast, the Cherokee were the largest group. They, along with the Creek, Choctaw, Natchez, and others, generally built wooden stockades around their villages for protection. Women did most of the farming, while men hunted deer, bear, and alligator.



This Folsom point, lying between animal bones, was one of a number of arrowheads found near the town of Folsom, New Mexico.



In the Southwest, the Hohokam and the Anasazi eventually disappeared, but their descendants, including the Zuni and the Hopi, continued to farm corn, beans, and cotton. Around the 1500s, two other groups—the Apache and the Navajo—came to the Southwest. The Navajo settled in farming villages, but many of the Apache remained nomadic hunters.

Hunting also sustained the Sioux and other peoples who lived on the western Great Plains. They followed buffalo herds and camped in tipis that they could easily set up, dismantle, and carry.

Along the Pacific Coast, the Northwest was home to fishing peoples like the Kwakiutls and the Chinook. They caught the plentiful salmon, built



**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**

**Native American Cultures, Including Mesoamerica, 500 B.C.—A.D. 1500**

- Agriculture
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Hunting-Gathering
- Uninhabited



*Northeastern longhouse*



*Southwest pueblo*

**Geography Skills**

- 1. Interpreting Maps** What was the main food source for the Northwest?
- 2. Applying Geography Skills** Why were Great Plains peoples nomadic?

wooden houses and canoes, and crafted ceremonial totem poles from the trunks of redwood and cedar trees. To the south, in what is today central California, groups such as the Pomo trapped small game and gathered acorns. Farther inland lived other hunter-gatherer groups like the Nez Perce, the Yakima, the Ute, and the Shoshone.

Meanwhile, in the Far North region from Alaska to Greenland, the Inuit and the Aleut hunted seals, walrus, whales, polar bears, and caribou. They adapted to their harsh environment by inventing tools such as the harpoon, kayak, dogsled, and oil lamp.

By the 1500s, Native Americans had established a wide array of cultures and languages. They had also developed economies and lifestyles suited to their particular environments.

**Reading Check** **Explaining** How did climate and food sources help shape Native American lifestyles?

## European Explorations

**Main Idea** European countries began to explore the world and established colonies in the Americas.

**Reading Connection** Have you tried new foods from other parts of the country or the world? Read on to learn about the exchange of foods after European explorers came to America.

As the people of Europe emerged from the Middle Ages, they became interested in Asia, the source of spices, perfumes, fine silks, and jewels. The hope to find a sailing route to Asia that would bypass merchants and traders from Italy and the Middle East motivated the rulers of Portugal, Spain, France, and England. Equipped with new navigational tools and newly designed ships, the Portuguese took the lead in exploration in the late 1400s.

**Columbus's Voyages** The Spanish monarchs, meanwhile, had agreed to fund an expedition by **Christopher Columbus**, an Italian sea captain. Columbus was convinced that he could reach Asia by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean. In August 1492, Columbus and his crew set off in three ships—the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*. After a harrowing voyage, they probably landed on present-day San Salvador Island.

Christopher Columbus was not the first European to set foot in the Americas. A group of Vikings from Scandinavia, led by Leif Ericsson, had visited north-eastern Canada around A.D. 1000. It was Columbus,

however, who launched a wave of European exploration and settlement. Columbus made three more voyages, sailing to the Caribbean and along the Central and South American coasts. He claimed the new lands for Spain, believing all the time that he was in Asia.

**Continuing Expeditions** Europeans soon realized that Columbus had not reached Asia but a part of the globe unknown to Europeans. They named the new continent America in honor of Amerigo Vespucci, who explored the South American coastline for Portugal.

The 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas had confirmed Spain's right to most of the newly discovered lands of America, and now explorers paved the way for the Spanish Empire in the Americas. With their superior weapons, the Spanish began to conquer the local peoples and build settlements. Hernán Cortés defeated the Aztec in Mexico in 1521. Francisco Pizarro conquered the Inca in Peru eleven years later. Other Spaniards led forces into what is now the United States. Juan Ponce de Leon, for example, claimed Florida, and Francisco Vázquez de Coronado explored the Southwest, while Hernando de Soto traveled through the Southeast and became the first European to see the Mississippi River.

The Spanish soon controlled an immense territory that stretched from the Florida peninsula to California and down into South America. Settlers farmed the land, established mines and cattle ranches, and tried to spread the Catholic faith. Adobe missions, where priests lived alongside Native American converts in the 1600s and 1700s, still stand in the American Southwest today.



*Spanish armor and helmet*