

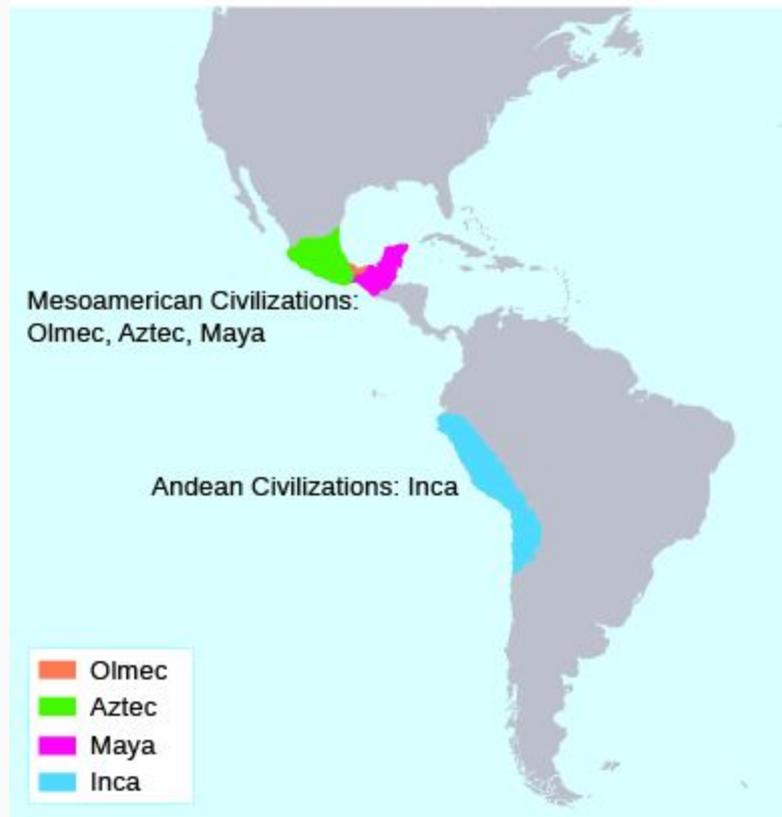
The Americas, West Africa, and Europe



Cultures in the Americas

- People came to the Americas 22,000 years ago through the Bering Strait Bridge which connected Asia to Alaska.
- 12,000 - 10,000 years ago: Earliest Americans were originally big game hunters but as the climate grew warmer they began to hunt small game like fish and gathering nuts and berries.
- 10,000 - 5,000 years ago - People moved to Mexico and South America.
- Agricultural revolution took place and many people went from being nomadic (moving from place to place) to settling in one area.

Major Cultural Centers in Mesoamerica and South America



Northern American Societies in the 1400s

- Adena and Hopewell (East and West of Mississippi) - excelled in trade and building tombs and temples
- Kashaya Pomo lived in California and hunted waterfowl (duck, geese, and other larger aquatic birds)
- The Yurok and Hupa collected acorns and fished
- The Nootka and Haida (Northwest) hunted whales, sea otters, and seals
- The Pueblo and Pima (Southwest) lived in a multi-story houses made of stone and adobe. They grew corn, beans, melons, and squash.
- The Iroquois Nation (Northeast) hunted fish, wild turkey, deer, and bears. They used hides for clothing.

Common Native-American Characteristics

- Native-Americans traded with each other
- Land was not sold
- All thought that the natural world was filled with spirits and they worshipped the “Great Spirit”
- Basic unit of organization was the family
- Old traditions influenced birth, marriage, and death

West African Cultures in the 1400s

- Songhai (600 - 1600) controlled the trans-Saharan trade. Goods were taxed, large armies were raised, and new territories were conquered
- Benin (1400s) controlled the Niger Delta
- Kongo (1400s) controlled the Congo River area. Their leader Manikongo lived in present day Angola
- People lived in small villages and had strong family bonds
- Political leaders claimed power on the basis of religion
- People supported each other through farming, herding, hunting, fishing, mining, and trading
- They believed in collective ownership of the land

West Africa Trade

- The city of Timbuktu was trading post - connecting Africa to markets in Asia and Europe
- Islam was also traded through the trade routes. Islamic faith began in Saudi Arabia in 622 by the prophet Muhammad
- The Portuguese began trading in West Africa along the coast to avoid crossing the Sahara desert - brought the coastal region into a closer relationship with Europe
- The Portuguese began the European trade in enslaved West Africans

European Cultures in the 1400s

- Europeans lived in small villages
- Societies were hierarchical - at the top was the monarchs, aristocrats, land-owning elite, clergy and the bottom agricultural laborers and peasants
- Few would rise above their social position - only group that did were artisans and merchants
- All these groups were heavily taxed by monarchs

Christianity's Influence on European Outlook

- Christianity was based on the teachings of Jesus and was led by the Pope.
- Christianity and Islam collided and in 1096 all Muslims were forced out of Jerusalem
- The Crusades were launched against Muslims living close to Jerusalem but failed although they did have two effects
 1. Asian trade routes were opened to Europeans (wanted things like cinnamon, nutmeg, and pepper)
 2. The power of the nobles was weakened because they lost their lives and fortunes which allowed the monarchs to consolidate their power

Encouraging Exploration

- Nation-states form: Portugal, England, France and Spain
- Renaissance (1400s): a rebirth/cultural awakening. A focus on learning, questioning, exploring, and adventure
- Printing press is introduced by Johann Gutenberg in 1450 and encouraged the spread of ideas
- Map making allowed for exploration for new water routes to Asia
- Monarchs wanted new land and trading routes to pay for armies and growing bureaucracies
- Europe had the weapons to control those in the Americas and Africa
- Caravel ship allowed for sailing closer to the wind which increased speed
- Compass allowed for better navigation
- In 1488, Portuguese sailor Bartolomeu Dias rounded the southern tip of Africa and in 1498, Vasco de Gama reached India