Chapter 1 – Early Exploration and Settlement

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The Earliest Americans

The Big Idea

Native American societies developed across Mesoamerica and North America.

Main Ideas

• Climate changes allowed people to migrate to the Americas.
• Early societies existed in Mesoamerica and North America.
• Cultures in North America were influenced by the environment.
Main Idea 1: Climate changes allowed people to migrate to the Americas.

- **Paleo-Indians** crossed the land bridge from Asia to present-day Alaska during the last ice age from 38,000 to 10,000 BC.
- This movement of peoples from one region to another is called **migration**.
- Paleo-Indians and their descendants moved into present-day Canada, the United States, Mexico, and South America.
Climate Affects Early Peoples

- Early peoples in the Americas were **hunter-gatherers**, who hunted animals and gathered wild plants.
- The warming climate created new **environments**: climates and landscapes that surround living things.
- Different environments influenced the development of Native American **societies**: groups that share a common culture.
- **Culture** is a group’s common values and traditions.
Main Idea 2: Early societies existed in Mesoamerica and North America.

- Some of the earliest American civilizations developed in Mesoamerica, also called Central America.
- Olmec society developed along the Gulf Coast of Mexico between 1200 and 400 BC.
- Maya civilization thrived in southeastern Mesoamerica from AD 300 to 900.
- The Aztecs arrived in Central Mexico in AD 1200, about the time the Inca created a civilization in South America.
Main Idea 3:
Cultures in North America were influenced by the environment.

- Researchers use culture areas to help describe ancient Native American peoples.
- Culture areas are geographic locations that influence society.
- North America is divided into several culture areas, including the Far North, Pacific Coast, California, West, Southwest, Great Plains, and East.
## Far North Culture Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arctic</th>
<th>Subarctic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long, cold winters and short summers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inuit peoples in present-day Alaska and Canada</td>
<td>Hunters followed migrating deer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aleut peoples in Alaska</td>
<td>People lived in temporary shelters made of animal skins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fished and hunted large mammals</td>
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</tbody>
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Pacific Coast and California Culture Areas

Pacific Coast
- Mild climate
- Rich supply of game animals, sea life, and wild plants
- Kwakiutl and Chinook peoples carved totems, ancestor or animal spirits, on tall, wooden poles.

California
- Many food sources, such as acorns, fish, and deer
- People lived in isolated family groups of 50 to 300.
- More than 100 different languages spoken
- Groups included the Pomo, Hupa, and Yurok peoples.
West and Southwest Culture Areas

**West**
- Divided into Great Basin and Plateau regions
- Groups adapted to the dry climate by gathering seeds, digging roots, and trapping small animals.
- Most groups, including Paiute, Shoshone, and the Ute, spoke the same language.

**Southwest**
- Groups included the Apache, Navajo, and Pueblo.
- They also adapted to a dry climate.
- The Pueblo irrigated land to grow crops.
- The Apache hunted game and raided the villages of other groups.
Great Plains and East Culture Areas

**Great Plains**
- Stretched from Canada to Texas and from the Mississippi Valley to the Rocky Mountains
- Mainly grasslands, with game such as buffalo
- People grew beans, maize, and squash.
- Groups included the Mandan, Pawnee, Arapaho, Blackfoot, and Comanche.

**East**
- Region rich in sources of food and shelter
- Southeastern groups, such as the Cherokee and Creek, lived in farming villages.
- The Algonquian and Iroquois were the main groups in the Northeast
- The Iroquois formed the Iroquois League, a confederation that waged war against non-Iroquois peoples.
The Age of Exploration

The Big Idea

As trade routes developed across the globe, European explorers crossed the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas.

Main Ideas

- Economic growth in Europe led to new ways of thinking.
- Trade with Africa and Asia led to a growing interest in exploration.
- Many European nations rushed to explore the Americas.
- The Columbian Exchange affected the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe.
Main Idea 1: Economic growth in Europe led to new ways of thinking.

- Europe experienced a great economic change called the Commercial Revolution, beginning in the 1200s.
- Wealth became more important in European society.
- Merchant families wanted **capital**: money or property that is used to earn more money.
- Merchants created **joint-stock companies**: businesses in which a group of people invest together.
Main Idea 2: Trade with Africa and Asia led to a growing interest in exploration.

- Wealth was made mainly through trade with distant continents—Asia and Africa.
- European merchants looked for sea routes to Africa and Asia by 1400.
- New technology was developed to aid exploration.
  - Magnetic compass, astrolabe, and caravel
- Vasco da Gama reached India in 1498.
Main Idea 3:
Many European nations rushed to explore the Americas.

- **Christopher Columbus**, a sailor from Genoa, Italy, heard stories of great wealth in the Indies.
- He persuaded King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain to pay for an expedition to the Indies.
- On August 3, 1492, Columbus set sail across the Atlantic with three ships.
- On October 12, 1492, he reached the Americas.
Columbus in the Americas

- Columbus and his crew landed in the Bahamas, on an island he named San Salvador.
- He called the native people Indians because he thought he was in the Indies.
- Columbus was interested in gold, not the culture of the native people.
- He made two more voyages to the Americas.
- The impact of Columbus’s voyages on the world was not realized until years after his death in 1506.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Explorer</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vespucci</td>
<td>America was named for Amerigo Vespucci, who sailed to South America in 1501.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magellan</td>
<td>Ferdinand Magellan headed an expedition in 1519 that eventually sailed around the world.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northwest Passage</td>
<td>Several countries sent explorers to North America to find a sea passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific.</td>
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<tr>
<td>French explorers</td>
<td>Jacques Cartier (1534) and Samuel de Champlain (1605) reached what is now Canada.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>The English captain Henry Hudson led a Dutch expedition to present-day New York in 1609.</td>
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Main Idea 4: The Columbian Exchange affected the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

- Explorers brought plants, animals, and diseases to the “New World” of the Americas and brought back plants and animals to the “Old World”—Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- The **Columbian Exchange** is the name given this transfer of plants, animals, and diseases.
- Explorers brought horses, cattle, pigs, and grains such as barley and wheat to the Americas.
- Europeans took back such American plants as corn, tomatoes, tobacco, and cocoa.
- Diseases from Europe killed hundreds of thousands of American Indians.
Spanish America

The Big Idea

Spain established an empire in the Americas.

Main Ideas

- Spanish armies explored and conquered much of the Americas.
- Spain used a variety of ways to govern its empire in the Americas.
Main Idea 1:
Spanish armies explored and conquered much of the Americas.

- **Conquistadors** were Spanish soldiers who led military expeditions in the Americas.
- **Hernán Cortés** led a military expedition to Mexico in 1519.
- Cortés heard of a wealthy land ruled by a king named Moctezuma II.
Conquest of the Aztec Empire

- Moctezuma II ruled the Aztec Empire from his capital city of Tenochtitlán.
- The Aztecs had thousands of warriors.
- Cortés had several hundred soldiers and sailors, as well as horses and guns.
- Moctezuma welcomed Cortés but was seized by the Spanish and later killed during fighting.
- The Spanish overthrew the Aztec Empire with the aid of thousands of the Aztec’s enemies.
- The Aztecs had also been weakened by smallpox and other diseases brought by the Spanish.
Pizarro’s Conquest of the Inca

- **Francisco Pizarro**, another conquistador, led a military expedition to the Inca Empire in the Andes Mountains of South America.
- The Inca ruled over territory that stretched from present-day Chile to Colombia.
- Pizarro’s forces killed the Inca ruler.
- Pizarro, with the aid of American Indian allies, had conquered the Inca by 1534.
Other Spanish Explorers

- Many other Spanish explorers came to North America in the 1500s to find treasure.
- Juan Ponce de León explored present-day Florida in 1513.
- Hernando de Soto traveled through Florida and North Carolina in 1539.
- The expedition of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo along the California coast gave Spain the claim to the Pacific coast of North America.
The Spanish Empire

- Spain’s American colonies helped make it wealthy.
- Tons of gold and silver were brought to Spain from the Aztec and Inca empires.
- Food was also grown in Mexico and Peru to support Spain’s expanding empire.
Main Idea 2: Spain used a variety of ways to govern its empire in the Americas.

Ruling New Spain
- System of royal officials
- Council of the Indies at top
- Viceroyalty of Peru governs South America
- Viceroyalty of New Spain governs Central America, Mexico, and southern part of what is now the United States

Life in Spanish America
- Pueblos were trading posts and sometimes government centers.
- Presidios were military bases.
- Priests started missions to convert Indians to Catholicism.
- Missionary Junípero Serra founded nine missions in California.
Spain’s Effect on Native Americans

- The **encomienda system** gave settlers the right to tax local Native Americans or make them work.
- Most Spanish treated Indians like slaves.
- Indians were forced to grow crops, work in mines, and herd cattle.
- **Bartolomé de Las Casas**, a Spanish priest, defended American Indian rights.
- So many Indians died of disease and exhaustion that the Spanish brought enslaved Africans to New Spain.
The Race for Empires

The Big Idea
Other European nations challenged Spain in the Americas.

Main Ideas
- The Protestant Reformation led to conflict in Europe in the 1500s.
- Conflict between Spain and England affected settlement of North America.
- European nations raced to establish empires in North America.
Protestant Reformation

- Martin Luther, a German priest, protested the practices of the Catholic Church in 1517.
- His actions led to a religious reform movement called the **Protestant Reformation**.
- Reformers became known as **Protestants**.
Main Idea 1:
The Protestant Reformation led to conflict in Europe in the 1500s.

- The **printing press**, a machine that produces printed copies, helped spread Reformation ideas.
- Conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Europe often led to civil war.
- King Henry VIII defied the pope and founded the Church of England, or Anglican Church, in 1534.
Main Idea 2: Conflict between Spain and England affected settlement of North America.

- King Philip II used Spain’s wealth to lead a Counter-Reformation against the Protestants.
- Philip sent the Spanish Armada to England to overthrow Queen Elizabeth and the Anglican Church.
- The smaller English fleet defeated the Armada.
- Spain was also weakened by economic problems, including inflation.
  - Inflation: a rise in the price of goods caused by an increase in the amount of money in use
Main Idea 3: European nations raced to establish empires in North America.

- **France**
  - St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes region to Mississippi River and New Orleans

- **The Netherlands**
  - Land between the Delaware and Hudson rivers

- **Sweden**
  - Area along the Delaware River

- **England**
  - Virginia and North Carolina
French Empire in North America

New France—North American territory that spread out from the St. Lawrence River in the late 1600s

Included fur traders, explorers, and missionaries

Claimed the Mississippi River Valley

Had close trading relationship with the Indians
New Netherland and New Sweden

New Netherland
- The Dutch came to America for trade.
- They settled land between the Delaware and Hudson rivers.
- Manhattan Island was purchased from local Indians and called New Amsterdam.

New Sweden
- Colonists settled along the Delaware River.
- They were the first to build log cabins.
- The Dutch conquered New Sweden in 1655.
The English founded a colony in North America in the late 1500s.

Sir Walter Raleigh received a charter, a document giving him permission to start a colony.

He sent an expedition that landed in present-day North Carolina and Virginia.

The colony established at Roanoke in 1587, in what is now Virginia, mysteriously disappeared.