



The First Americans

WHO WAS HERE BEFORE US?

How did people reach the Americas?

- AMERICAS: NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA– UNKNOWN TO MOST OF THE WORLD UNTIL 1492
- THEORY: A SYSTEM OF IDEAS INTENDED TO EXPLAIN SOMETHING, A HYPOTHESIS
- SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THE FIRST HUMANS CAME TO THE AMERICAS 20,000–30,000 YEARS AGO
- HOW?
- THERE WERE NO SHIPS DURING THAT TIME TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC OR PACIFIC
- THERE WERE NO PLANES TO FLY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OR PACIFIC
- SO HOW DID PEOPLE REACH THE AMERICAS WHEN CIVILIZATION BEGAN IN ASIA?

Land Bridge Theory

- BETWEEN 10,000 AND 100,000 YEARS AGO THE WORLD WAS COVERED IN GLACIERS— THE ICE AGE
- WHEN THE WORLD'S OCEANS WERE FROZEN INTO GLACIERS, OCEAN LEVELS DROPPED
- THIS CREATED SHALLOW WATER OR DRY LAND IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE WORLD
- SCIENTISTS HYPOTHESIZE, OR THEORIZE, THAT HUNTER-GATHERERS FROM ASIA FOLLOWED ANIMAL HERDS ACROSS DRY LAND NEAR RUSSIA / ALASKA AND WALKED INTO NORTH AMERICA
- HUNTER-GATHERERS: A NOMADIC GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT LIVED BY FOLLOWING ANIMAL HERDS AND HARVESTING WILD FOOD

Land Bridge Theory

- ONCE HUNTER-GATHERERS MIGRATED INTO NORTH AMERICA, THEY CONTINUED TO FOLLOW HERDS DOWN THE CONTINENT AND INTO SOUTH AMERICA
- EVENTUALLY THE GLACIERS MELTED AND CLOSED OFF THE “LAND BRIDGE” WITH WATER
- THE NATIVES THAT HAD ALREADY MIGRATED BEGAN TO FORM CIVILIZATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS, ECONOMIES, AND CULTURES
- THESE EARLY CIVILIZATIONS LIVED IN NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS BEFORE THE EUROPEANS BEGAN TO EXPLORE

Land Bridge Theory

1. HOW DID SCIENTISTS CREATE THIS THEORY?
2. HOW COULD THEY PROVE THIS THEORY?
3. WHY WOULD NATIVES CONTINUE TO MIGRATE AND SPREAD OUT?



Native American Cultures form

- **WAY OF LIFE: FARMING, GATHERING, FISHING, HUNTING, TRADING**
- **RELIGION: MANY NATIVE AMERICANS BELIEVED THAT SPIRITS DWELLED IN NATURE AND THESE SPIRITS WERE PART OF THEIR DAILY LIVES**
- **TRADITIONS: NATIVE AMERICANS FORMED RITUALS TO WORSHIP THEIR GODS AND PASSED DOWN THEIR HISTORY THROUGH STORYTELLING**

North American Tribal Regions

- 1) ARCTIC:** LAND WAS COVERED IN ICE AND SNOW ALL YEAR LONG, RELIED ON ANIMALS FOR FOOD AND CLOTHING. **INUIT: IGLOOS**
- 2) NORTHEAST:** ALSO CALLED EASTERN WOODLANDS, FARMLAND, FORESTS, AND ACCESS TO MANY RIVERS AND LAKES. **IROQUOIS AND ALGONQUIAN**
- 3) SOUTHEAST:** HOT SUMMERS AND GOOD FARMLAND, ALSO RELIED ON FISHING. BUILT HOUSES FROM CLAY TO KEEP THE INSIDE COOL. **CHEROKEES, CREEKS, NATCHEZ, AND CHICKASAW**
- 4) GREAT PLAINS:** STRETCH OF LAND BETWEEN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND ROCKY MOUNTAINS, SURVIVED BY FARMING (CORN, BEANS, AND SQUASH) AND BUFFALO. LIVED IN EARTH LODGES OR TEPEES. **OSAGE, DAKOTA, BLACKFEET**



Native American Regions
