

Welcome to History 11
Political & Social History
of the United States I
Prof. Valadez

Topics

- Theories explaining origins of Native Americans
- Diversity of Native Americans
- Similarities of Native Americans

True or false

- The horse existed in the western hemisphere before 1492.
- Columbus introduced the horse in the western hemisphere.
- Agriculture first emerged in the Southwest.

The First Americans

- **Origins**
 - Short Chronology
 - Long Chronology
 - Native beliefs
- **Diversity**
- **Similarities**
 - Kinship
 - Spirituality

- Paleo-Indians 13,000 B.C.E. to 8,000 B.C.E.
 - Small bands of nomadic hunters
 - Diet consisted of big game species
 - Tradition of sharing scarce resources
- Archaic peoples 8,000 B.C.E. to 2500 B.C.E.
 - Experienced tremendous environmental change: sea levels rise
 - Diet: small mammals, fish, wild plants, berries
 - Beginnings of agriculture

NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL REGIONS

- Arctic
- Subarctic
- Northwest Coast
- Far West
- Great Plains
- Southwest
- Eastern Woodland
- Mesoamerica
- Circum-Caribbean
- (Glacial Greenland)



Cultural Diversity, 2500 B.C.E.-C.E.1500

- **Mesoamerica**

- In Mesoamerica maize-cultivating societies emerge.
- **Olmecs** first writing system
- Trade networks and city-states follow: earliest is **Teotihuacan** 100-600 C.E.
- Teotihuacan declines, Mayan city-states spread through southern Mexico and Central America: calendar, number and writing systems.
- 1400s, Aztecs

Cultural Diversity, 2500 B.C.E.-C.E.1500

- The Southwest
 - **Hohokam** and Anasazi cultures emerge.
 - Hohokams build extensive canal systems for irrigation: villages with several hundred people.
 - Anasazis dominate for 600 years: **Chaco Canyon**.
 - Droughts 12th-13th cultures decline.