

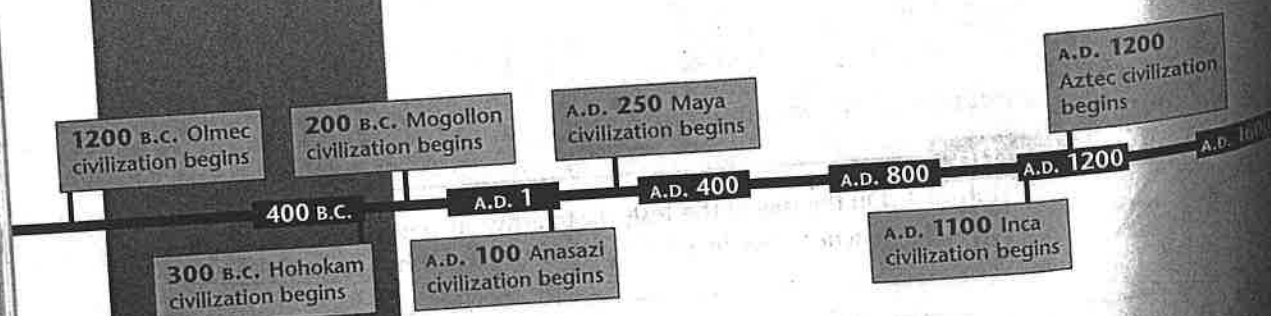
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Civilizations of the Americas

The first Stone Age humans set foot in what is now the Americas as early as 20,000 B.C. They had no idea that they were the first people to walk on this land. They did not know that the land consisted of two huge continents that we call North and South America. Within these two regions lies a cultural region we call Mesoamerica. It is made up of Mexico and Central America. Some of the earliest civilizations in the Americas developed here.

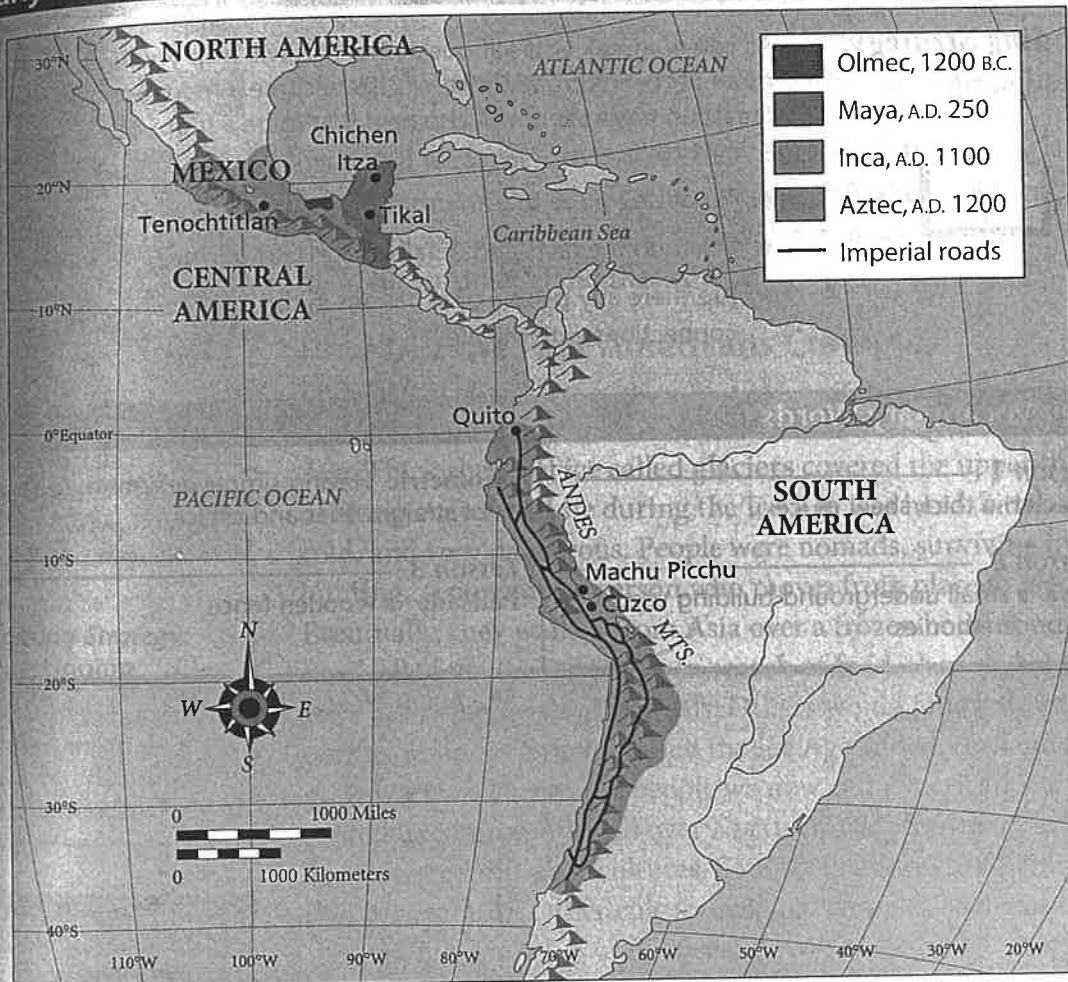
Goals for Learning

- ◆ To explain how the first Americans may have come to the Americas
- ◆ To identify three important early Southwestern cultures
- ◆ To explain characteristics of four regional Indian cultures
- ◆ To identify the cultures of early Mesoamerica and South America



DAY 1

Early American Empires



Map Skills

The land that connects the continents of North America and South America is called Mesoamerica. It is made up of Mexico and Central America.

This map shows four early American empires—the Olmecs, the Mayas, the Aztecs, and the Incas. The dates show about when those empires began. It also shows the roads in the Incan Empire.

Study the map, then answer the following questions:

1. Why did the Incan roads run mostly north and south instead of east and west?
2. Which empire seems to have been the biggest?
3. Which empire was the smallest?
4. What mountain range runs along the west coast of South America, within the Incan empire?
5. Which empire is the oldest?

DAY 2

Lesson

1

In Search of the First Americans

Objectives

- ◆ To explain how people may have first come to the Americas
- ◆ To describe an important discovery in New Mexico
- ◆ To explain the importance of the Folsom Point and the Clovis Point

Reading Strategy: Questioning

What details are important to understanding the first Americans?

Glacier

A thick sheet of ice

Archaeologists want to learn when the first Americans reached the Americas. They also want to learn where the people came from and what their lives were like. These people lived so long ago that archaeologists have found only a few artifacts. Archaeologists will continue to search for new evidence to help them better understand these people.

How Did the First Americans Come to the Americas?

The first Americans came to the Americas during the last Ice Age. Thick sheets of ice called **glaciers** covered the upper third of North America. Life during the Ice Age was hard, bitter cold, and very dangerous. People were nomads, surviving by hunting. A nomad is a person who moves from place to place. Eventually, they walked from Asia over a frozen body of water now called the Bering Strait. In search of food, they probably were following herds of animals. Others would follow them over thousands of years. When the Ice Age ended, the land grew warmer. Slowly, the people we now call American Indians settled in communities all over North and South America. They created different cultures. Some created ways of living that were simple. Other cultures created complex societies like those in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

How Long Have Indians Lived in North America?

At one time, scientists thought that American Indians had lived in North America for no more than 4,000 years. Then, in 1908, George McJunkin, an African American cowboy, made a discovery. He was riding his horse in Folsom, New Mexico. Heavy rain had flooded the area. McJunkin noticed that the floodwaters had washed away many layers of dirt. The water had uncovered many very large animal bones. He called it his "bone pit." He knew that the bones were important because of how big they were and how deep they were buried.

**Reading Strategy:
Questioning**

Think beyond the text. Consider your own thoughts and experiences as you read about important discoveries.

**Writing About
History**

Imagine you have just made a discovery like the one George McJunkin made. Write two paragraphs in your notebook describing the first thing you would do.

Although self taught, McJunkin had collected ancient bones, rocks, minerals, and old arrowheads. He owned books on geology and natural history. McJunkin wrote to scientists asking them to come and see what he had discovered. At first, scientists were not interested. It was only after McJunkin died in 1922 that scientists decided to take his advice and examine his "bone pit."

What Did Scientists Learn from the "Bone Pit"?

In 1926, the animal bones were dug up and brought to the Colorado Museum of Natural History. They turned out to be important evidence about how long American Indians had lived in North America. The bones were those of ancient buffaloes. Radiocarbon dating of the bones showed them to be about 9,000 years old. Scientists also discovered a piece of flint stuck in the ribs of one of the animals. It had been shaped by a human into a sharp spear point. Scientists named the sharpened flint piece the Folsom Point. The Folsom Point had been buried at the same time as the bones. That meant that American Indians had been living in the New Mexico area for at least 9,000 years. George McJunkin had made a major scientific discovery. Anthropologists now wondered if those who made the Folsom Point were really the oldest people. Were there even more ancient people who lived before the makers of the Folsom Point?



The Clovis Point was found in Clovis, New Mexico, in the 1930s.

DAY 2

Were the Clovis People the First Americans?

In Clovis, New Mexico, a new spear point was found in the 1930s. The Clovis Point was more than 4,000 years older than the spear point found in Folsom. Many anthropologists believe that the Clovis people entered the Americas about 13,000 years ago. For many years, anthropologists thought that the Clovis people were the first Americans. However, new evidence changed that belief. It is now thought that other groups entered the Americas at about the same time.

Lesson 1 Review On a sheet of paper, write the answer to each question. Use complete sentences.

1. How do we think the first people got to the Americas? Why did they come here?
2. What was George McJunkin's discovery?
3. How did scientists determine the age of the bones in the pit?
4. Why are the Folsom Point and the Clovis Point important?
5. Why did many anthropologists think that the Clovis people were the first Americans?

What do you think ?

George McJunkin knew that his discovery was important. Why do you think that scientists were not interested in it until after he died?

Objectives

- ◆ To identify the cultures of the Hohokam, the Mogollon, and the Anasazi
- ◆ To explain the environment in which each of these cultures lived

**Reading Strategy:
Questioning**

What do you think you will learn about early Southwestern cultures?

In what is now the Southwestern United States, archaeologists discovered the remains of three important societies of ancient Indians. These Indians—the Hohokam, the Mogollon, and the Anasazi—shared a similar background. Each had changed from hunting and gathering their food to growing their food. However, the environments where they lived were very different.

Where Did Each of the Southwestern Cultures Live?

The Hohokam lived in a dry desert area in what is now Arizona. The Mogollon lived among tree-lined mountain ranges and a river valley in southeastern Arizona and southern New Mexico. The Anasazi lived in the canyons and the flat-topped mesas where Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado meet. Because of the different environments, the cultures developed different methods of farming, building shelters, and showing their artistic ideas.

Why Did the Hohokam Build Canals?

Anthropologists believe that the Hohokam developed from a combination of local people in Arizona and Mesoamericans who had moved from the south. Their civilization began about 300 B.C. The Hohokam lived in a desert area. They had to figure out how to bring water to their land. Their solution was to build irrigation canals using simple hand tools. From A.D. 800 until 1000, they built hundreds of miles of canals. The network of canals provided the Hohokam with more than just water for their crops. The canals provided water for drinking, cooking, and washing. The Hohokam grew cotton that was woven into cloth. They used canal water to create painted pottery. The Hohokam also made beautiful jewelry using seashells.

DAY 3

Kiva

A small underground building used for ceremonies

Geometric

Having simple designs made up of straight lines and circles

What Was Snaketown?

Snaketown was an important place for the Hohokam. This settlement ruled smaller villages by controlling their canals. The Hohokam built ball courts in Snaketown for sports and rituals. Mounds found within the remains of Hohokam villages may have been dance platforms or places where their leaders lived. By about 1450, most people had abandoned the Hohokam area. This most likely was caused by a lack of water and a failed irrigation system. The Pima Indians later lived in the same area. They named the earlier people *Hohokam*, meaning “the vanished ones.”

Why Are the Mogollons Known for Their Artwork?

We do not know what ancient peoples called themselves. For example, Mogollons were given their name by anthropologists because they lived among the Mogollon mountain ranges. These mountains were named after Don Juan Mogollon, a Spanish governor of New Mexico in the early 1700s. It is believed that the Mogollon people began farming this area about 200 B.C. The Mogollon created shelters both on high ground and underground. These unusual **kivas**, or small underground buildings, were used for religious ceremonies and councils.

The Mogollon people are especially known for their artwork. They created a new form of pottery. Between A.D. 900 and 1200, they created beautiful clay bowls. These had black and white **geometric** designs and animal images. Geometric designs are created with circles and straight lines. The most important art that the Mogollons are known for is their rock art. Over a wide geographic area, the Mogollon people carved thousands of mysterious images into the surfaces of rocks. There are images of insects, fish, reptiles, birds, and mammals. There are also human faces and masks. No other people anywhere in the world created so many artistic images.

How Do We Know the Anasazi Were Master Builders?

The Anasazi are known as the master builders of the Southwestern ancient Indian cultures. Their "Golden Age" was between A.D. 850 and 1150. During these 300 years, the Anasazi constructed a planned community. This community contained a massive complex of ceremonial buildings and roads. This building project was shaped like a wagon wheel (which the ancient Indian people did not use). The center of the "wheel" was in Chaco Canyon in New Mexico. It was here that huge ceremonial buildings, known as great houses or cliff dwellings, were built. The style of the stone buildings is called pueblo.

It is estimated that more than 100,000 pieces of timber had to be carried from the mountains to create floors and roofs. They had no work animals, such as horses, to help them. The timber had to be carried about 50 miles on the backs of workers. Roads were built from the center like the spokes of a wheel. The roads led to villages lying along the rim of the wheel. The villages

could be as far as 10 miles away from the center. The leaders of the Anasazi communicated from the central great houses to these villages with signal fires. They used obsidian glass like a mirror to reflect the message being signaled by the firelight.



This is an example of Anasazi petroglyphs, or rock art.

DAY 3

What Was the Chaco Canyon Settlement?

There may have been more than 100,000 people living in the Chaco Canyon Anasazi settlement. It became a major center for trade, crafts, and religious ceremonies. There is evidence that it was also a place to carefully study the stars and planets. It was a place of wealth and power. Eventually, around A.D. 1150, the "Golden Age" ended. The people left the area for unknown reasons. Maybe there was not enough rain. There may have been too many people and not enough resources. Leaders may have lost their ability to lead such a complex community.

Word Bank

Anasazi
Chaco Canyon
Hohokam
Mogollon
Snaketown

Lesson 2 Review On a sheet of paper, use the words from the Word Bank to complete each sentence correctly.

1. The _____ built canals to bring water to their land.
2. The _____ were known as "master builders" because of their buildings and roads.
3. The _____ were known for their beautiful pottery.
4. The _____ settlement ruled the canals of smaller villages.
5. The _____ planned settlement became a major center for trade.

What do you think?

Why do you think the Chaco Canyon settlement disappeared?



History in Your Life

Visiting Anasazi Treasures

Explorers of the 2000s are lucky to be able to visit places built by the Anasazis.

Archaeologists have found the ruins of numerous Anasazi creations. Most of these can be found in the Four Corners area, where Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico meet.

Mesa Verde National Park and the nearby Ute Mountain Tribal Park are located in southwestern Colorado. Both parks feature Anasazi cliff dwellings and rock art. Mesa Verde Park features Cliff Palace, the largest known cliff home. Other attractions include mesa-top pueblos and pit houses.

**Reading Strategy:
Questioning**

What do you think you will learn about by reading this lesson?

Objectives

- ◆ To describe where the Woodland Indians lived
- ◆ To describe Mississippian civilizations
- ◆ To describe a Plains Indian settlement
- ◆ To explain one way the Indians of the Pacific Northwest were different from other cultures

Indian cultures differ from one region to another. Anthropologists divide these cultures into four basic groups. These groups are Woodland, Mississippi River (Mississippian), Great Plains, and Pacific Northwest. Adena and Hopewell were early Woodland cultures. Mississippian Indian settlements were in what is now the Midwestern and Southeastern states in the United States. The Indians of the Great Plains lived west of the Mississippi River. Their way of life was very different from the Woodland and Mississippian Indians. On the West Coast, the Indians of the Pacific Northwest had a way of life different from all the others.

What Is Known About the Woodland Indians and the Adena Burial Mounds?

Woodland Indians lived east of the Mississippi River. They could be found on the East Coast and around the Great Lakes. They lived in forest areas near streams and lakes. The Adena and Hopewell were Woodland Indians. They were also hunter-gatherers and mound builders. In Ohio, on private property called Adena, burial mounds were discovered. The Adena burial mounds measured 300 feet wide. Inside the burial mounds were small log rooms in which the dead were buried. The burial rooms also contained tobacco and pipes. Adena pipes were beautifully made and are considered works of art. The Adena people lived in villages of less than 500 people. This culture survived from 700 B.C. to A.D. 100.

What Was the Hopewell People's Snake Mound?

The Hopewell people followed the Adena in the Ohio area. Hopewell mounds were found in the 1840s on the Hopewell farm in Ohio. The largest mound was over 30 feet high. By A.D. 100, the Hopewell people had become farmers. They planted barley, sunflowers, and squash. By concentrating on farming, they took an important step to control their food supply.

DAY 4

One of the most interesting creations in this area is a very large earthen Snake Mound. The jaw of the Snake Mound is 17 feet long. Its mouth is swallowing a huge egg. The Snake Mound curves over the land for more than a quarter mile. Some archaeologists believe the Snake Mound is an Indian symbol of growth and change. There is evidence that Indian cultures believed this because snakes grow and change by shedding their skin.

Reading Strategy: **Questioning**

As you read, notice the details in the text. What questions can you ask yourself about these early cultures?

Where Was the Poverty Point Culture?

In the 1950s, archaeologists discovered an old aerial photograph of what looked like a 19th-century Louisiana cotton plantation. The plantation, named Poverty Point, was located in the lower Mississippi River Valley. The photograph showed the outlines of a large earthwork made by humans. It was more than 4,000 years old. This great structure is evidence of the existence of another highly developed ancient American Indian culture. This group of Mississippians was named the Poverty Point people.

The Poverty Point culture was unusual because it appeared to be made up of hunter-gatherers, not farmers. Hunter-gatherers must get their food by hunting, fishing, and gathering wild plants. They move from place to place. This way of life does not usually produce extra food for workers. It took many workers hundreds of years to create and enlarge the earthwork. It was completed around 1000 B.C. After that, the Poverty Point culture declined and eventually ended.

Where Was the City of Cahokia?

The city of Cahokia was located in the present state of Illinois. By 1200, the city of Cahokia had a population of more than 20,000 people. At the time it was the largest settlement of Mississippians in North America, covering six square miles. Cahokia was located where three rivers come together: the Missouri, Illinois, and Mississippi Rivers.

DAY 4

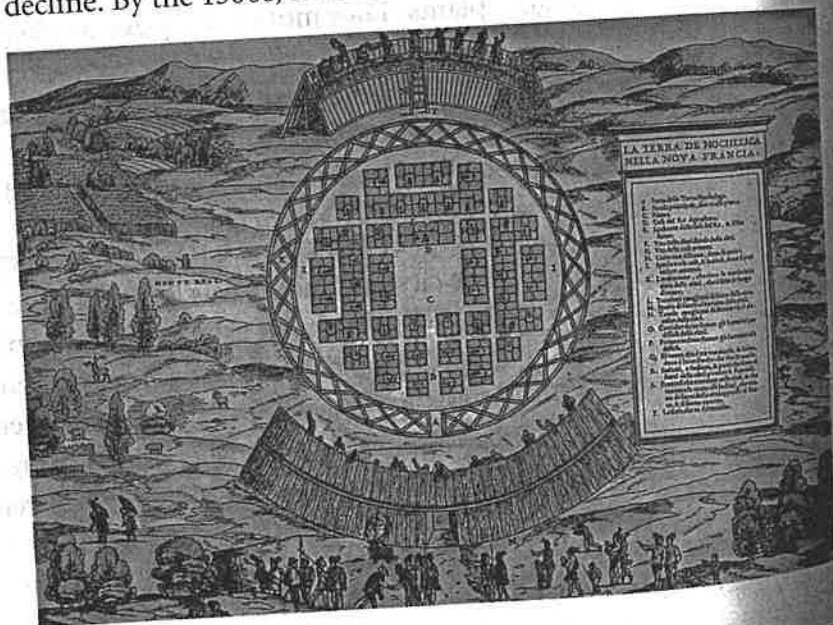
Palisade

A wooden fence

Cahokia was a planned city with many public buildings. A wooden fence called a **palisade** surrounded the city. The people of Cahokia were also mound builders. They built 120 mounds. One mound, called Monk's Mound, is the largest mound in North America. Monk's Mound was named after a French monk who found it in the early 1800s. Over the years, the population of the city declined. It is not known why this happened. It could be because the weather changed and they were unable to produce enough food. Disease may have played a part, or wars may have caused a decline. By 1500, the people of Cahokia had vanished.

Where Was the City of Moundville?

The city of Moundville was located in present-day Alabama. Second only to Cahokia, it had the largest population between 1000 and 1400. This Mississippian settlement was built on a high bluff overlooking the Black Warrior River. In the center of the settlement were 26 earthen mounds located on a large plaza. A major agricultural center, Moundville had large supplies of Indian maize, or corn. The people of Moundville were known for their artistic achievements. They made excellent pottery, copper pieces, and stonework. By 1350, Moundville began to decline. By the 1500s, it had been abandoned.



Iroquois Village

DAY 5

Why Were the Iroquois Important?

Between 1200 and 1400, a powerful Woodland culture in Upper New York developed. These people are believed to have descended from the Mississippian Indians. Six tribes called the Iroquois created a peace treaty called the "Great Law of Peace." They organized themselves into a democracy. Their great leaders, Hiawatha and Seneca, are still remembered today for their important speeches. When Europeans arrived, the Iroquois were the most powerful Indians in North America.

What Was the Culture of the Great Plains Indians Like?

The Great Plains is an area located between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. The Great Plains is a place of flat grasslands, rivers, streams and a few mountains. There are not many trees. Summers are hot and dry, and winters are very cold. The Plains Indian tribes living in the 1800s were the Sioux, Cheyenne, Comanche, and Blackfoot. These Indians rode horses while hunting buffalo. But their way of life was not always like this. Before the 1500s, there were no horses in the Americas. The horse arrived later, with Spanish explorers.

Indian settlements before the 1500s were mostly found on the borders of the Great Plains near rivers and streams. From about 850, settlements grew up along the Missouri River. The Mandan tribe lived along this river in present-day North Dakota. Each Mandan village contained only a few hundred people. They lived in dome-shaped buildings. This type of building was made of large logs covered with earth and straw. These Indians were farmers.

How Were the Pacific Coast Indians Different from the Plains Indians?

The abundant supply of many natural resources made the way of life of the Pacific Coast Indians different from that of the Plains Indians. The Pacific Coast Indians lived in Puget Sound in what is now Washington State. Puget Sound is a large body of water surrounded on three sides by land. It is an area rich in seafood, especially salmon. The Indians were experts at fishing. Besides an endless supply of seafood, the woods were filled with wildlife, nuts, berries, and root vegetables.

Even in winter there was enough food. In winter, they ate stored food that they had preserved by drying. The woods were filled with cedar trees. The Indians used cedar to build their shelters. These buildings were called longhouses, because they could be up to 100 feet long. They shaped cedar into shoes, clothing, rope, and mats. They carved it into tools and shaped it into bows and arrows. Even their canoes were made of cedar.

The Pacific Coast Indians showed their wealth with a custom called a potlatch. The word *potlatch* means "to throw through the air." The host of the potlatch gave the guests many gifts. The potlatch custom appears to be something only the Pacific Coast Indians did.

Who Are the Inuit?

In the Arctic in present-day Alaska and northern Canada, north of the Pacific Northwest Indians, live the people that others call Eskimo. The word *Eskimo* means "eaters of raw meat." They call themselves *Inuit*, meaning "real people." Their lives were hard. They lived in a harsh, frozen environment for most of the year. They built shelters out of blocks of snow. The shelter is called an igloo, which means "home." They hunted sea mammals and caribou for food. Their possessions were simple. They are known for their delicate carvings of ivory and soapstone.

DAY 5

Lesson 3 Review On a sheet of paper, write the letter of the answer that correctly completes each sentence.

1. The Adena and _____ were early Woodland cultures.
A Hopewell **C** Poverty Point
B Seneca **D** Cahokia
2. Mound builders buried _____ in the mounds along with people who had died.
A weapons **C** tobacco and pipes
B extra food **D** barley, sunflowers, and squash
3. The _____ culture was probably made up of hunter-gatherers, not farmers.
A Hopewell **C** Poverty Point
B Seneca **D** Cahokia
4. Plains Indians of the Mandan tribe lived in _____ buildings
A low, flat **C** square
B dome-shaped **D** log
5. The abundant supply of seafood, wildlife, nuts, berries, and vegetables made the lives of the _____ Indians unusual.
A Woodland **C** Great Plains
B Mississippian **D** Pacific Northwest

What do you think?

Great leaders of this time, such as Hiawatha and Seneca, are remembered for their speeches. Who do you think will be remembered for their speeches 100 years from now?