

At the center was the palace of the emperor, who was known as the Sapa Inca. The emperor was regarded as a god descended from the sun god.

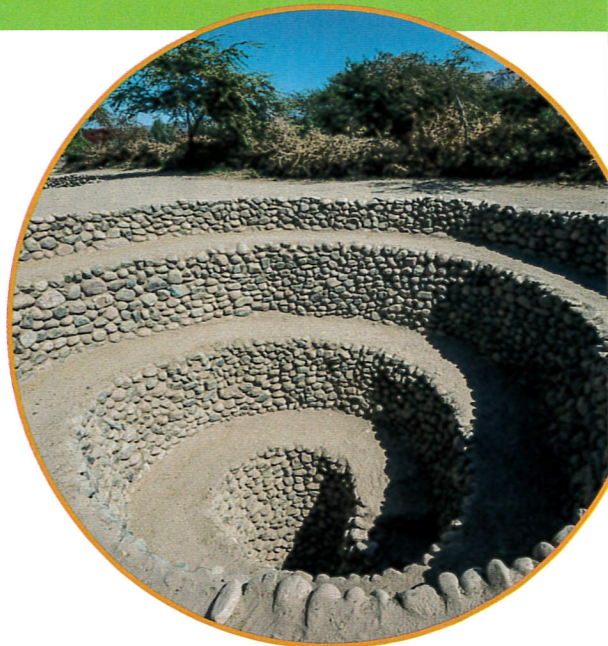
From Cuzco, the emperor ruled more than 10 million people. They lived in varied environments, from coastal deserts to lowland jungles to the highlands of the Andes. The Inca had conquered the land through warfare.

The Incan empire was very well organized. The emperor was kept well informed about affairs in all parts of his empire. He sent high officials out to act as governors of his domain. The governors made sure that every person worked at least part of the time on projects for the state, such as road building, mining, and farming.

Incan Achievements To unite their empire, the Inca maintained a system of roads that covered more than 10,000 miles. Builders carved roads in rock cliffs and stretched rope bridges across deep gorges. Runners spread royal orders using the roads.

The runners carried with them a **quipu** (KEE poo). This was a cord or string with knots that stood for numbers or categories. The numbers might represent bags of goods that the government ordered from different parts of the empire. The quipu was also used by officials to keep records.

The Inca were skilled engineers. They built massive stone temples and forts. With only human labor, ropes, and wooden rollers, they moved stones weighing up to 200 tons. They also used their engineering skills to farm the dry, rugged mountain lands. They became experts at creating **terraces**—or wide, flat steps of land—out of the steep mountainsides. Sturdy stone walls kept rain from washing away the soil.



Analyze Images The Inca created a water system for the city of Machu Picchu using the natural stone from the mountains. **Use Visual Information** Why do you think the Inca designed the system in this way?


READING CHECK **Identify Main Ideas** Why was a system of roads so important to the Inca?

Lesson Check

Practice Vocabulary

1. How did a **surplus** of food lead to the first civilizations?
2. Why did the Aztec construct **causeways**?

Critical Thinking and Writing

3. **Identify Cause and Effect** How might the last ice age have helped hunters reach North America?
4. **Identify Supporting Details** What major impact did the development of farming have on the early settlers of the Americas?
5. **Understand Effects** How did the Aztecs' religious beliefs weaken their empire?
6. **Writing Workshop: Generate Questions to Focus Research** At the end of this topic, you will write a research paper on the question: How did a travel-related invention or improvement in one of the societies covered impact people's lives? Make a list of questions for this lesson that would need to be answered in order to write the paper. Record your questions in your  Active Journal

LESSON 2

Cultures of North America



GET READY TO READ

START UP

Examine the photo of the Serpent Mound found in present-day Ohio. Why do you think the American Indians of the region constructed such a mound?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What early societies formed in North America?
- What are the human and physical characteristics of different regions of North America?
- What were the religious beliefs of American Indian groups in North America?

TAKE NOTES

Literacy Skills: Classify and Categorize Use the graphic organizer and your Active Journal to take notes as you read the lesson.

PRACTICE VOCABULARY

Use the vocabulary activity in your Active Journal to practice the vocabulary words.

Vocabulary

culture
adobe
pueblo
culture region
tribe

Academic Vocabulary

diffusion
potlatch
clan
Iroquois League
characteristic
maintain

Scholars have found evidence of complex societies in North America. Traders and migrating people carried foods, goods, arts, and beliefs from Central America and Mexico to the early peoples of North America.

Early North American Societies

These peoples developed many distinct cultures in North America. A **culture** is the entire way of life of a people. It includes their homes, clothing, economy, arts, and government.

Land and People of the Southwest At least 3,000 years ago, knowledge of farming spread northward. Gradually, farming societies emerged in what is today the American Southwest. Much of this region is desert, with little rainfall and hot summers. The early societies in this region included the Hohokam (hoh HOH kahm) and Anasazi (ah nuh SAH zee).

The Hohokam lived in present-day southern Arizona. About 2,000 years ago, they dug networks of irrigation ditches for farming.

The ditches carried water from the Salt and Gila (HEE luh) rivers to fields in the desert land, allowing farmers to grow corn, squash, and beans.

The Anasazi lived in the Four Corners region, where modern-day Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona meet. Like the Hohokam, the Anasazi irrigated the desert in order to farm. They also created a network of roads to link dozens of towns. Traders traveled these roads, carrying cotton, sandals, and blankets woven from turkey feathers.

Anasazi Houses The Anasazi built large buildings with walls of stone and **adobe**, or sundried brick. When the Spanish later saw similar buildings in the early 1500s, they called them **pueblos** (PWEHB lohzh), the Spanish word for “villages.” (They also called the descendants of the Anasazi the Pueblo Indians.) About 1,000 years ago, some Anasazi villages faced attacks from warlike neighbors. To escape that threat, they built new homes along steep cliffs. Toeholds cut into the rock let people climb the cliff walls. Farmers planted their crops on land above the cliffs.

Mound Builders Far to the east, other farming cultures flourished in North America. Among them were the Mound Builders, various cultures that built large earth mounds beginning about 3,000 years ago. Thousands of these mounds dot the landscape from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi Valley and from Wisconsin to Florida. What is now the eastern half of the United States had a wetter climate than the Southwest, and the Mound Builders were able to farm without irrigation.

The first mounds were used for burials. Later mounds were used for religious ceremonies. They were similar in function to the pyramid temples of the Maya.

The best-known groups of Mound Builders were the Hopewell and the Mississippians. The Mississippians took advantage of their moist climate to grow enough crops to feed large towns. Between 700 CE and 1500, the Mississippians built a city at Cahokia (kah HOH kee ah) in present-day Illinois. As many as 30,000 people may have lived there at one time.

 **READING CHECK Identify**

Supporting Details How did the Hohokam adapt to living in a desert region?

Analyze Images The Anasazi used stone and adobe to build this settlement in modern New Mexico.

Infer Much of this settlement still stands, even though it was built more than 900 years ago. What does that tell you about Anasazi construction skills?



American Indian Culture Regions



KEY

	Arctic/Subarctic		Southwest
	Northwest Coast		Great Plains
	California/Great Basin/Plateau		Eastern Woodlands
			Southeast

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Groups of American Indians formed shared cultures in different geographic regions.

1. **Place** In what culture region did the Miami live?
2. **Infer** Why do you think few tribes lived in the Arctic/Subarctic region?

What Were the Cultural and Physical Characteristics of North America?

Like American Indian groups today, early American Indians included many different people with many distinct cultures. In North America alone, there were hundreds of American Indian languages spoken. American Indian cultures, too, varied greatly, much like the cultures of the people of Europe.

American Indian cultures were adapted to the many different physical environments of North America. The physical **characteristics** of the environment in each region influenced population distribution and settlement patterns, or where American Indians lived, right up to modern times.

A **culture region** is a region in which people share a similar way of life. Most culture regions shared similar physical environments. Each culture region was home to many different tribes. A **tribe** is a community of people who share common customs, language, and rituals. Members of a tribe saw themselves as a distinct people who shared a common origin. Tribal leaders often made decisions for the group.

Hunting, Gathering, and Fishing

American Indians developed a variety of ways to meet their basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. In some culture regions, tribes hunted animals and gathered nuts, fruits, and vegetables that grew in the wild. Other tribes depended on the sea for food.

They made boats out of animal skins or carved canoes out of trees. From their boats and canoes, they speared or netted fish or hunted marine animals such as seals, walrus, and whales.

Farming Other tribes lived mostly by farming, planting corn, beans, and squash. American Indian tribes farmed in many parts of North America, from the American Southwest to the Eastern Woodlands. Over time, farmers improved their crops. For example, more than 5,000 years ago, wild corn was tiny, about the size of a human finger. Indian farmers developed dozens of varieties of corn, including ones with larger ears.

Academic Vocabulary

characteristic • *n.*, a distinguishing trait, quality, or property

Trade American Indians traded with one another for goods not found within their own region. Trade networks linked people across large distances. Goods sometimes traveled more than 1,000 miles from where they were made.

In the Northwest, traders met near the Dalles on the Columbia River. Local Indians caught and dried salmon, which they exchanged for goods and produce from other places. More than goods were exchanged by the different groups. New ideas and skills also spread.

This process of spreading ideas from one culture to another is known as **diffusion**. Through diffusion, skills such as farming spread from one American Indian group to another.

Adapting to and Modifying Environments American Indian cultures adapted to the physical features of different regions. These features influenced the kinds of food people raised, collected, or caught. Climate determined people's needs for clothing and shelter. Resources provided the materials they were able to use.

Climate and resources also affected organization. Where climates were harsh and resources limited, people struggled to find enough food and shelter. In such regions, people were often nomadic. They lived in small hunting bands. Each band included a number of families. In regions with more favorable climates and plentiful resources, people tended to live in larger groups and stay in one place for longer periods.

Cultures of the Arctic and Subarctic Regions

Frozen seas and icy, treeless plains made up the world of the Inuit, who lived in the Arctic region. The Inuit used all the limited resources of their environment. In the short summer season, they collected driftwood along the ocean shore, using it for tools and shelters.



INTERACTIVE

Native American Culture Regions of North America

Analyze Charts American Indians supported themselves by being resourceful. **Draw Conclusions** How did the foods American Indians ate influence their way of life?

Ways American Indians Supported Themselves

	FORAGING	FARMING	HUNTING
FOOD SOURCE	Fruits, nuts, seeds, roots, stems, and leaves from wild plants	Cultivated plants such as maize, beans, and squash	Wild game and fish
TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY	Grinding tools for crushing seeds	Tools for clearing and cultivating: axes; hoes made with bone, shells, or stone	Tools such as spears and sharp points; trapping and netting food
INNOVATIONS	Baskets for storage	Methods for storing and preserving foods over winter months; irrigation methods	Techniques for drying meat and fish to balance the food supply over the winter
CULTURAL CHANGES	Mobility needed to find new food sources	Cultivating land required more labor but also created settlements and communities	Mobility needed when food resources became depleted
ADVANTAGES	No need to work in fields and risk fatal encounters with wild animals	Control over the food supply when growing conditions were favorable	Hunted animals provided clothing and shelter in addition to food
DISADVANTAGES	Poor weather could lead to shortages	Poor weather conditions could wipe out a harvest	Required a plentiful supply of wild game



Analyze Images The Inuit used caribou and seal fur to make warm clothing that would offer protection against extreme Arctic weather. **Infer** How might clothing worn by groups to the south have been different?

For most of the year, the Inuit lived in pit houses, houses dug into the ground and covered with wood and skins. Lamps filled with seal oil kept their homes warm even in the bitter cold. Women made warm clothing out of furs and waterproof boots out of seal skins.

The Subarctic culture region consisted of a belt of forest stretching across North America south of the Arctic. This forest is made up mainly of conifers, or cone-bearing trees such as hemlock and spruce. People in the Subarctic lived where they could find food. Groups like the Chipewyan (chip uh wy un) were nomads, following large game like caribou. Physical characteristics of the environment influenced their settlement patterns. The Carrier, for example, settled near salmon streams, although they sometimes moved to other hunting sites.

Cultures of the California, Great Basin, and Plateau Regions

The California region offers more forgiving climates, with mainly hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters. The physical features included mountains, coastal lowland, and interior valleys and deserts.

Over 200 different tribes called this region home. Along the Colorado River, land was irrigated to grow corn, pumpkin, and beans. In the Northwest, the Yoruk (YAWR uk) used redwood trees to build houses and canoes and caught the plentiful fish of that region. In central California, salmon and acorns were plentiful. People there hunted and gathered plant products instead of farming. With enough food nearby, people could spend time producing crafts. The Pomo wove watertight baskets out of grasses and reeds.

The Great Basin culture region consisted of mountains and valleys with a dry climate, with hot summers and cold winters. Many of the bands that lived here, like the Bannock, were small and nomadic. They traveled to find seeds, nuts, roots, and bulbs. The Northern Paiute (PY yoot) lived near lakes and marshes. Hunting, fishing, and farming often provided enough food for them to stay in one place.

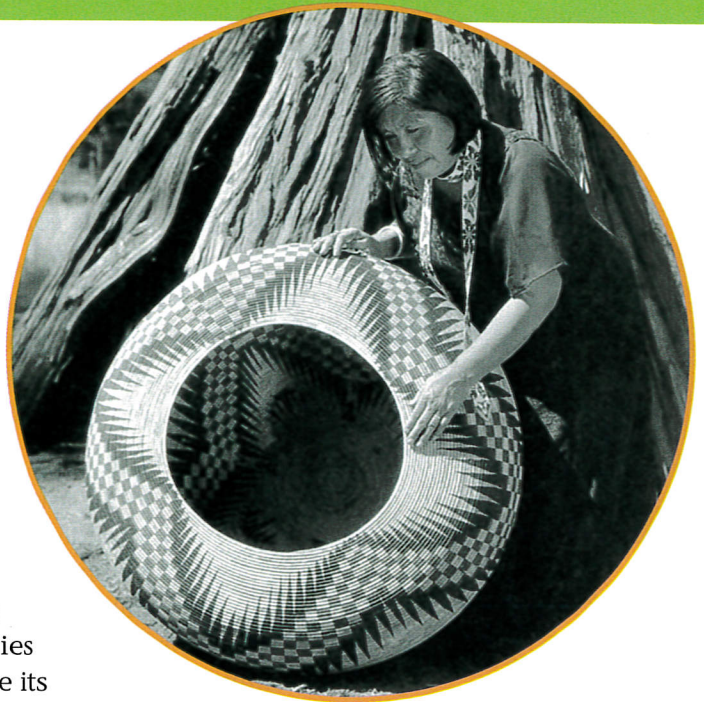
The Plateau region, centered on the Columbia Plateau, has a cool and dry environment, but winter snows feed rivers flowing through the region. Surprisingly, numbers of hardy plants and animals thrive in the region. Among the people of the Plateau region were the Ute (YOOT) and Shoshone (shah SHOH nee). The American Indians of the region had few possessions beyond digging sticks, baskets, and tools and weapons needed for hunting.

Cultures of the Northwest Coastal Region

Elsewhere in North America the climate was kinder, which helped more complex cultures emerge. The people of the mountainous Northwest Coast enjoyed milder temperatures and abundant rainfall and food supplies. They gathered rich harvests of fish from the sea.

From nearby forests, they cut down tall cedar trees and split the trunks into planks for houses and canoes. With plenty of food, the people of the Pacific Northwest stayed in one place. They built permanent villages and prospered from trade with nearby groups.

Within a village, a family gained status according to how much it owned and could give away. Families sometimes competed with one another. To improve its standing, a family might hold a **potlatch**, or ceremonial dinner, to show off its wealth. The potlatch could last for many days. The family invited many guests and gave everyone gifts. The more goods a family gave away, the more respect it earned. However, people who received gifts at a potlatch were then expected to hold their own potlatches.



▲ This basket is representative of Great Basin American Indian artwork. It is made of grass roots, fern roots, and redbud roots.



Analyze Images The abundant forests of the Pacific Northwest provided the trees American Indians used to carve totem poles. The images on the poles often told stories from Indian creation stories. **Use Visual Information** Do you think the images symbolize animals or people?



▲ This stone head was made by a Mississippian artist. It dates to between 1200 and 1500 CE.

Cultures of the Southwest Region

The Southwest is a hot and dry region consisting of deserts, the southern Rocky Mountains, and the Colorado Plateau. People could survive only if they found water.

The Pueblo people used irrigation methods such as building dams and tanks to store water. They were able to grow corn and cotton on small farms. However, it wasn't all work in the desert. The Hohokam played games on ballcourts and made beautiful art with acid-etchings on shells.

Cultures of the Southeast Region

Many tribes lived in southeastern North America. This region is made up of coastal plains, the southern Appalachian Mountains, and rolling hills and valleys. It has hot summers, mild winters, and plenty of rainfall. Among the people of this region were the Natchez (NACH ihz). They benefited from the region's warm, moist climate. They hunted, fished, and farmed in the fertile Mississippi Valley.

The Natchez calendar divided the year into 13 months. Each month was named after a food or an animal that the Natchez harvested or hunted. Their months included Strawberry, Little Corn, Mulberry, Deer, Turkey, and Bear.

The ruler of the Natchez was known as the Great Sun and was worshipped as a god. The Great Sun's feet never touched the ground. Either he was carried on a litter or he walked on mats. Below the Great Sun were members of his family, called Little Suns.



Analyze Images The Natchez built ceremonial mounds to bury their dead and for other religious events. **Synthesize Visual Information** What do you think the Natchez may have done with the smaller mound atop the large mound?



Next came Nobles, then Honored People, and finally Stinkards, or commoners, who made up the majority of the people.

By law, Nobles had to marry Stinkards. Even the Great Sun chose a Stinkard as a wife. In this way, no one family could hold the position of Great Sun forever. In time, even descendants of a Great Sun became Stinkards.

Cultures of the Great Plains Region The Great Plains were dry, open grasslands in the center of North America with very few trees, hot summers, and cold winters. Tribes like the Sioux (soo) hunted wild animals to survive. The Sioux were nomads who followed the buffalo. They ate buffalo meat and used the hide to build tents. These tents were easy to carry when they were on the move. No part of the buffalo was wasted. They made spoons and cups out of the horns and weapons from the bones.

Cultures of the Eastern Woodlands Region Like the peoples of the Southwest and Southeast, the peoples of the Eastern Woodlands were not nomads. Their culture region spanned what is today much of the Midwest and Northeast. This region includes coastal plains, the northern Appalachian Mountains, the Great Lakes region, and interior rolling hills and plains. The region receives plenty of rainfall, with warm summers and snowy winters.

The Iroquois (IHR uh kwoi) lived near lakes and streams. They cleared land for farming, which was mostly done by women. Their diet was based on the “Three Sisters”: corn, squash, and beans. Algonquian (al GAHN kwee un) tribes lived near the ocean and along the Great Lakes. Many of them farmed as well. In some places the soil was too poor to farm. Instead, the Algonquian built boats for fishing. Like the Iroquois, they also used trees from the forests to make houses and tools.

READING CHECK **Identify Cause and Effect** Why did the tribes who lived in the Southwest region irrigate the land?

Analyze Images Before Europeans brought horses to the Americas, Great Plains tribes hunted buffalo on foot, dressed as wolves.

Use Visual Information How did horses make it easier for American Indians to hunt buffalo?

INTERACTIVE

Housing and the Environment

Religious Beliefs

The many American Indian groups held a wide variety of beliefs. Yet, they shared some basic ideas.

Close Ties to Nature Whether hunting, fishing, farming, or gathering wild plants, many American Indians felt a close connection to the physical environment. Their prayers and ceremonies were designed to **maintain** a balance between people and the forces of nature. They believed that they must adapt their ways to the natural world in order to survive and prosper.

Many American Indians believed that the world was full of powerful, unseen forces and spirits. They honored those spirits, which were thought to act and feel like humans.

In the Pacific Northwest, many tribes relied on fishing. One such group was the Kwakiutl (kwah kee oot ul). Each year when they caught their first fish of the season, they chanted this prayer:

Primary Source

"We have come to meet alive, Swimmer, do not feel wrong about what I have done to you, friend Swimmer, for that is the reason why you came, that I may spear you, that I may eat you, Supernatural One, you, Long-Life-Giver, you Swimmer. Now protect us, me and my wife."

—Kwakiutl Prayer of Thanks

Academic Vocabulary

maintain • v., to keep in an existing state

Analyze Images

American Indians, such as the Kwakiutl, still fish for salmon using traditional methods.

Infer Why are these people fishing from a plank instead of from the shore?





Special Ceremonies Kachinas were spirits represented by masked Indian dancers. The Pueblo believed kachinas could bring good harvests. At Pueblo festivals, the kachinas danced. Religious leaders prayed to the spirits and gave them gifts.

In the Southwest and the Southeast, many tribes held a Green Corn Ceremony when the corn ripened in the fall. The ceremony lasted for several days. It marked the end of the old year and the beginning of a new one. On the last day, a sacred fire was lit. Dancers circled the flames, and the people enjoyed a great feast. Women used coals from the fire to make new fires in their houses.

READING CHECK **Draw Conclusions** What do you think American Indians might have assumed if there was a lack of rain?

The Iroquois League

The Iroquois (IH-uh-kwoi) people of present-day New York State called themselves the People of the Long House. They took great pride in their sturdy dwellings, called long houses. A typical long house was about 150 feet long and 20 feet wide. Twelve or more families lived in a long house.

Women had a special place in Iroquois society. They owned all the household property and were in charge of planting and harvesting. When a man married, he moved in with his wife's family.

Women also had political power. They chose clan leaders. A **clan** is a group of related families. If a clan leader did not do his job well, the women could remove him from his position.

Analyze Images Pueblo Indians perform a dance in New Mexico. **Use Visual Information** What is the woman second from the right in this picture holding in her hands? Why might this be the case?

Quick Activity

Create a matching game. Match characteristics of different American Indian cultures to facts about their climate, resources, and lifestyles.



Analyze Images The Iroquois lived in wooden long houses that were built clustered together. The long houses were built of posts and poles covered with tree bark.

Draw Conclusions Why would the cultures of the Great Plains have been unable to build long houses covered with tree bark?

The Iroquois included five nations that spoke similar languages: the Mohawk, Seneca, Onondaga (ahn un DAW guh), Oneida (oh NY duh), and Cayuga (kay YOO guh). Each nation had its own ruling council. Until the 1500s, the five nations were frequently at war.

Then, in the 1500s, the five Iroquois nations formed an alliance to end the fighting. According to legend, a religious leader named Dekanawida (deh kan ah WEE dah) inspired Hiawatha (hy ah WAH thah) to organize the alliance. It became the **Iroquois League**.

A council of 50 specially chosen tribal leaders, called sachems, met once a year. The council made decisions for the League. Here, too, women had a political role because they chose the sachems and watched over their actions.

The Iroquois alliance did not end the fighting. The Iroquois spoke a different language from the Algonquian tribes, their neighbors to the east and west. The two groups fought many wars over land and trade.

READING CHECK **Identify Supporting Details** What role did women play in Iroquois culture?

Lesson Check

Practice Vocabulary

1. What were the buildings in Anasazi **culture** made from, and what did the Spanish call them?
2. What role did women play in the **clans** of the **Iroquois League**?

Critical Thinking and Writing

3. **Compare and Contrast** What did the Anasazi and Hohokam do to adapt to their environments?
4. **Identify Main Ideas** How did harsh climates and warmer climates affect American Indian cultures differently?
5. **Writing Workshop: Support Ideas with Evidence** In your **Active Journal**, record details about the impact of trade networks on the peoples of North America.