

Main Ideas or Questions

Notes

8/23/11 – 8/24/11

Chapter I Section I

What is Beringia and does it still exist today?

If they crossed a bridge connecting Siberia and Alaska, what descent would they be?

How were these nomads efficient with the use of the animals they hunted?

- I. The Journey from Asia
 - a. the first people migrated from Asia to North, Central, and South America during the last Ice Age.
 - b. this Migration took centuries, and people spread out across the Americas as far east as the Atlantic Ocean, and as far as South America
 - c. these early people crossed a land bridge from Siberia to present day Alaska
 1. **Beringia** – name of the land bridge
 - d. they were **nomads** – people who move from place to place
 - e. they were skilled hunters and used every part of the animal to make weapons and clothes.
- II. Settling down
 - a. As the ice age ended, they began hunting smaller game
 - b. They found new sources of food by **cultivating** new plants and berries
 - c. Natives near the coast learned fish
 - d. Began forming villages and communities, others remained nomadic
 - e. Began creating **culture**

Chapter I Section II

What other great civilizations are around when the Egyptians and Greeks are there?

Why is the United States not a theocracy?

- I. The great civilizations of the Americas
 - a. Olmecs 3000 BC – 1500 BC
 - b. Sculpted large stone monuments and had a drainage system.
- II. The Maya
 - a. Located in modern **Yucatan peninsula** and Guatemala
 - b. They built large cities with at least one stone pyramid
 - c. **Tikal** was the largest Mayan city and had 5 pyramids
 - d. They had a **theocracy** – ruled by religious leaders
 - e. The Maya believed that gods controlled all that happened on Earth
 - f. The religious leaders lived atop the pyramids

SUMMARY

Early nomads probably traveled across Beringia in search of food. They crossed not knowing they had landed on a new continent. Once the 93 mile land bridge had melted, the oceans rose and they worked their way south spreading themselves throughout North America

Main Idea or Questions

Notes

- g. Excellent astronomers and used hieroglyphics
- h. Economy was based on trading along the river system.
- i. they disappeared about A.D. 900
 - 1. descendants of the Maya still exist in modern Guatemala
- III. The Aztec
 - a. Founded in 1325 in Tenochtitlan (modern day Mexico City)
 - b. City built on a lake, they had lake filled
 - c. They built a military empire and conquered all rival communities
 - d. From the conquered they took everything and subjected captured to slavery
 - e. They believed in gods that would be pleased by the sacrifice of humans

SUMMARY

Most major cities across the world are built near a river or the mouth of a river. This close proximity to water made it easier to have trade and allowed ships the fastest form of commute.

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