

NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA IN ANCIENT TIME

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Шановні читачі, ми продовжуємо публікацію науково-методичних розробок з історії стародавнього світу і пропонуємо Вашій увазі лекцію «North and South American Ancienttime (Північна і Південна Америка в давнину)», котра ознайомить здобувачів освіти з історією заселення територій Північної та Південної Америки; переселення перших американських племен, а також дасть змогу викладачам, учням та студентам ближче ознайомитись із цивілізаціями Чавін, Наска та Моче.

Обрана нами тема, на жаль, недостатньо представлена в сучасній вітчизняній науково-методичній літературі з викладання всесвітньої історії у ВНЗ, ліцеях, гімназіях, школах та системі профільного навчання.

Під час написання лекції ми зіткнулися з проблемою нестачі інформації. З цієї причини нами була опрацьована значна кількість сучасних (останніх 2-х десятиліть) американських та канадських навчальних підручників різних рівнів, з-поміж яких: «The Encyclopedia of World History» by Peter N. Stearns, «The History of the World» by J. M. Roberts, O. A. Westad, «Worldhistory. Ancient

Through Early Modern Times» by D. Carnine, C. Cortes, K. Curtis, A. Robinson та багато інших.

На жаль, навіть у таких змістовних виданнях тема відкриття та історичного розвитку Північної та Південної Америки в давнину не знайшла ґрунтовного висвітлення, тому нам довелося розширити коло пошуку та опрацювати навчальну літературу «Історія людства», видану за підтримки міжнародної організації ЮНЕСКО та спеціальні наукові статті.

Ми вважаємо, що всесвітня історія має повністю висвітлювати розвиток усіх частин та регіонів світу, тому тема «North and South America in Ancienttime (Північна і Південна Америка в давнину)» є важливою та актуальною для сучасної освіченої особистості.

Lecture

NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA IN ANCIENT TIME

Key Vocabulary

Ice Age, isthmus, migration, land bridge, ice sheet, hunter-gatherers, spear, glaciers, wikiups, teepees, buffalo, maize, Algonquian language, pemmican,

canoe, teepees, pueblo, longhouse, wigwam, wikiup, Hogan, lacrosse, social structure, clan, textile, aquifer

Key People

Christopher Columbus, The Apache, The Blackfoot Nation, The Cherokee, The Cheyenne, The Cree, The Inuit, Nez Perce, Yupi'k, Navajo, nomads, Chavín, Nazca, Moche

Key Place

Atlantic Ocean, Bering Sea, Southern Great Plains, Canada, Montana, Southeast United States, American Great Plain, Oklahoma, Alaska, Minnesota, Mesoamerica, Yucatan Peninsula

Main Idea

- The first Americans spread throughout North, Central and South America.
- Ancient American cultures arose in difficult environments. These cultures adapted to their challenging conditions by developing new farming techniques and irrigation systems. The techniques allowed them to grow food and build thriving civilizations.

Read for Purpose

- **What did you know:** How did the ability to grow food change the way people lived?
- **What you will learn:** How the first people arrived in the Americas?
- **What you will learn:** Which discovery changed the lives of the early Native Americans?

Plan

1.1. The Geography of the Americas: Physical Geography of the Americas, Geography of Mesoamerica.

1.2. The Native American Experience: Learning to Farm, A New World to Live In, People of the Far North, Living in the Arctic. How the First Americans Became Indians,

1.3. Native North Americans from different regions: Native Americans of the Northwest Coast, Native Americans of California, Native Americans of the Great Basin, Native Americans of Plateau, Native Americans of the Southwest, Native Americans of the Eastern Woodlands, Native Americans of the Southeast

1.4. Native Americans everyday life and culture: Native Americans Art, Homes and Dwellings, Teepee, Longhouse, and Pueblo Homes, Native Americans Clothing, Entertainment – Sports, Games, Music and Dancing.

1.5. Roles of Woman and Men, Social Structure, Religion.

1.6. Ancient South America: Geography of the Andes, Ancient Andean Civilizations: The Chavín Civilization, The Nazca Civilization, The Moche Civilization

1.7. Summary and Review.

1.1. The Geography of the Americas: Physical Geography of the Americas, Geography of Mesoamerica

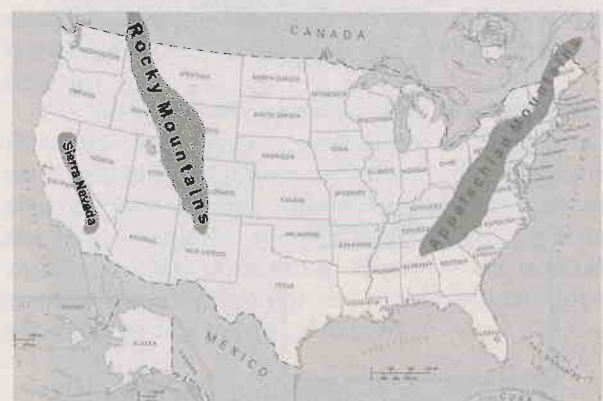
Physical Geography of the Americas

Look at the map of North and South America. You can see that the continents are connected. A narrow land bridge called an **isthmus** links them. However, the geographies and climates of the two continents are very different.

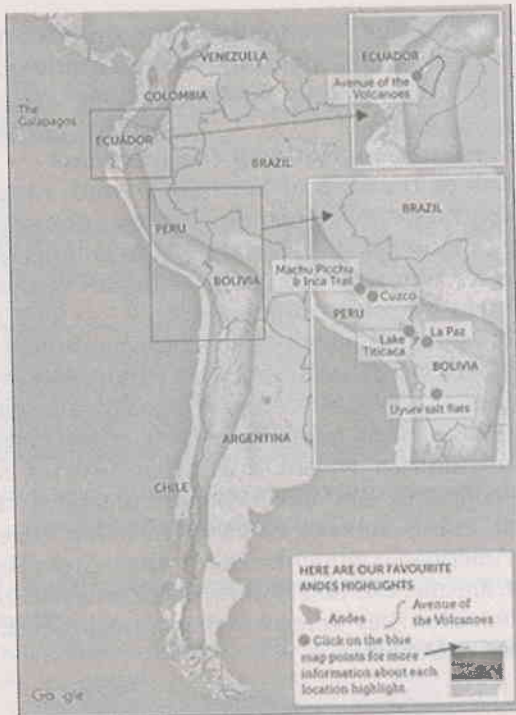
For many, America is a single continent, but for others is not so, because they think that North America and South America are two separate continents. This is an issue that never ends! In Latin countries, we are taught that America is the new continent, and after Asia, is the largest in the world. In U.S. schools, children learn that there are two American continents: North America-including Central America, and South America. However, in earlier times they were viewed as a single continent known as America.



Map, North and South America.



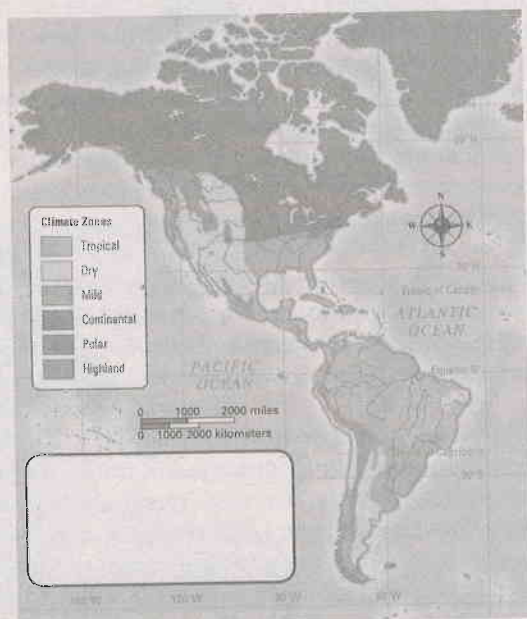
Map, Rocky Mountains



Map. Andes mountains

Mountains run along the western parts of both continents. North America has a north-south mountain range called the Rocky Mountains. South America has a mountain range called the Andes. Water flows down these ranges to the continents' great rivers. The major river system of North America is the Mississippi. The Amazon and Parana rivers are the major systems of South America.

The locations of the two continents has an impact on their seasons. As you can see on the map on this page, North America lies north of the equator. Most



Map. Climate of North and South America

of South America lies south of it. As a result, the seasons are reversed. When it is summer in North America, it is winter in South America—and vice versa. The locations of the continents also affect their climates. Much of North America has a mild or dry climate, with four distinct seasons. Most people live in these climates. Few people live in the northern regions of Canada, where the climate is very cold. South America also has a wide range of climates. In addition, much of the continent receives a great deal of rainfall. In fact, about half of South America is warm and rainy. These warm and rainy areas are called tropical zones. Some areas of North America are also tropical. These areas lie mostly in Central America. The people who built ancient civilizations in this Central American area learned to live and thrive in its tropical climate.

• Geography of Mesoamerica

Ancient civilizations arose in North America in a region called Mesoamerica. Mesoamerica includes southern Mexico and the Central American countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, and parts of Honduras and Nicaragua. In contrast with the Andes Mountains, Mesoamerica offers a milder environment.

Mesoamerica has two main regions: highlands and lowlands. The tropical lowlands hug the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. These areas of dense jungle are also found on the Yucatan Peninsula, which lies between the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. The highlands stretch between the mountains of the Sierra Madre mountain system. Like much of the Andes, this region is subject to earthquakes and volcanoes.



Map. Mesoamerica

Rainfall varies greatly in these two regions. It can rain more than 100 inches a year in the steamy lowlands, providing a good environment for palm, avocado, and cacao trees. As you climb toward the highlands, however, the air becomes cooler and drier. This region receives much less rainfall.

Early Mesoamerican farmers had to develop advanced agricultural practices to deal with both

climates. In the dry highlands, farmers irrigated their fields, which produced corn, beans, and squash. In the lowlands, they practiced slash-and-burn agriculture and slash-and-burn agriculture. They cleared a patch of jungle by cutting back and burning it. When the field became less productive, farmers began again with a new piece of land.

1.2. The Native North American Experience: Learning to Farm, A New World to Live In, People of the Far North, Living in the Arctic. How the First Americans Became Indians, Tribes and Regions



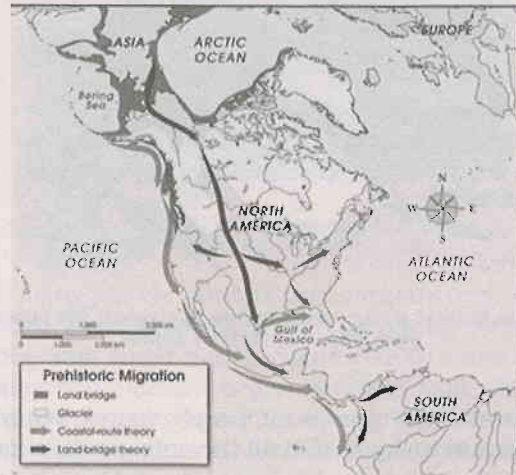
Hunters Reach the Americas

• The Native American Experience

Scholars generally agree that the native peoples of North and South America migrated to this continent from Asia, but they disagree on when and how the first peoples crossed from Asia to North America. Estimates on their arrival range from as far back as about 30,000 years to about 15,000 years ago. It can be said with some certainty that «waves» of people coming at different times, from different places, and by many means settled the Americas in the distant past. As the passage across Beringia became less possible, these waves were fewer.

During that period, Earth was undergoing the last Ice Age. Scientists call this time the Ice Age. Much of the world's water was frozen into ice. There was less water in the oceans than there is today. Some lands that are now under water were dry.

That's why dry land once connected Asia to North America. During the Ice Age, this dry land formed an area that scientists today call Beringia or the «land bridge». Many areas of Earth were frozen as solid ices that today have flowing, liquid water. As a result, the ocean levels were lower, and some land that is now submerged was then above water. During the Ice Age, Asia and North America were connected by land.



Prehistoric Migration

Archaeologists have long believed that the first Americans crossed a «land bridge», joining the eastern tip of Asia and what is now Alaska, and moved southward through a narrow ice-free corridor. However, in recent years this idea has been questioned. Some scholars believe that conditions would have been far too cold and difficult for a crossing in Beringia. Some even doubt the existence of an ice-free passage.

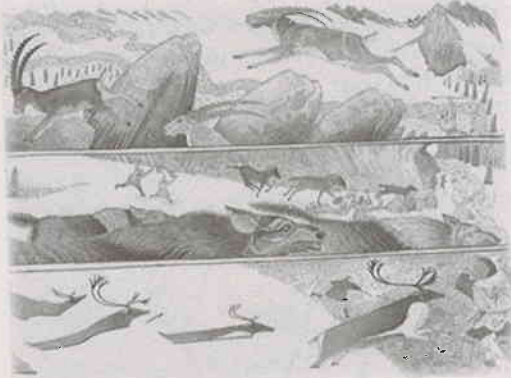
Today, many scholars believe that the earliest settlers may have come to North America in boats, by walking across frozen water, or by following the then-exposed continental shelf that bordered the Asian and North American Pacific coasts. Most Native American people, in their origin stories, hold that their people have always been here. The land bridge plays almost no role in their own histories. In any case, the movement east across Asia and into North America probably took place over thousands of years.

The first peoples to cross into North America from Asia were hunting prehistoric animals, such as the woolly mammoth and the bison. It may be that the first peoples followed these herds across the land bridge, or perhaps they arrived by other means and began hunting. Wherever the animals roamed, the hunting parties, probably made up of extended family groups, followed.

• A New World to Live In

By now the climate was getting much warmer. Water ran off from the melting ice sheets, carving

out giant river valleys. North America's huge Great Lakes filled up. Melting ice water caused oceans all over Earth to rise. Many areas along the coasts were flooded, including Beringia. The rising sea cut North America off from Asia.



Early American hunters caused animals to stampede into places where they could be easily speared.

The various groups of people found two vast continents to live in and all the animals they could hunt. They continued to hunt large mammals such as the mastodon. Over time, the climate changed, and this caused many large mammals to die out. The change in climate destroyed many of the plants the mammals ate. Overhunting the mastodon also helped to reduce its numbers.



American's first settlers

Thousands of years passed. Groups of people moved from one place to another. As they moved, they learned to live in their new homes. They learned to use the resources available to them. They developed hundreds of languages. Their ways of life

changed to fit the different parts of North and South America where they lived. Today, we consider these people Native Americans.

• People of the Far North

It is so far north that for six months of the year, there are very long periods of light. Then, for the other half of the year, there are very long periods of darkness. During the winter, it is very dark and cold. Moonlight gleams on the ice. The northern lights shimmer and arc across the sky. Stars twinkle, and their positions change as spring approaches.

During the Arctic summer, the sun does not appear to set. It does, however, dip close to the horizon, where the sky seems to meet the land. Even so, there are only about one hundred days when it is warm enough for water not to turn to ice. The warm season is too short to grow crops. But berry bushes and small flowers blossom. This northern land has been called a "frozen desert." It is a hard place to live in. And yet it has long been home to an ancient group of people.



The tents in this Inuit camp in Northern Alaska were made from seal and caribou skins. The Inuit used the inflated seal skins, hanging from the poles, as floats.

The ancestors of these Arctic people came to North America about 2,500 years ago. Unlike Native Americans, they are not directly related to the Beringian hunter-gatherers who lived at least fifteen thousand years ago. In Canada, the ancestors of the Arctic people are known as the Inuit. The word Inuit means «the people». When the Inuit first came to North America, they got almost everything they needed by hunting and fishing. They gathered plants during the short summer. Since there are no trees in the Arctic, the Inuit used driftwood. They collected the wood that floated on the sea or down rivers to make certain things they needed. They also made fishhooks, knives, and other small tools from bones and flint.

About two thousand years ago, other peoples in northern Asia taught the Inuit how to make and use bows and arrows. The Inuit used these new weapons to hunt seals, caribou, and polar bears. Soon, knowledge of bows and arrows spread from the Inuit to other Native American people.

Living in the Arctic



The hunters made camp before continuing with the hunt

A thousand years ago, the Arctic climate was a little warmer than it is today. Whales migrated along the Arctic Ocean coast. Some Inuit groups followed the whales east. They traveled from Alaska to northern Canada and all the way to Greenland. They set up villages. This meant they could stay in one place for more than a single season. On the sea, they traveled swiftly and safely in kayaks. Kayaks were canoes made out of animal hide stretched over a frame. The frames were made from driftwood or animal bone. On land and on the thick ice, the Inuit carried heavy loads on sleds. These sleds were pulled by a person wearing a harness or by a team of dogs. The Inuit became skilled hunters of whales and walrus. They used special tools such as harpoons tipped with bone, stone, and later iron.



The Inuit built igloos as shelters when they moved from place to place while hunting

The climate got colder again five hundred years ago. It got too cold for whales to swim along the Arctic coast. The Inuit in Arctic Canada and Greenland could no longer live in one place all year. During the year they moved from place to place to find enough food to eat. They broke into small groups. They hunted smaller animals, such as seals. Some traded with Europeans, who were beginning to explore the Arctic.

• Learning to Farm

For centuries, early humans could fill most of their needs by hunting. Game animals provided

food, furs for clothing, and bones for tools. In time, many of the larger animals began to disappear. Deprived of their main source of food, hunters had to change their ways of life.



The first corn raised by farmers in Mexico did not look anything like the corn we eat today.

In many places, hunters became gatherers. They traveled from place to place, searching for wild plants and small game. Some 8,000 years ago, gatherers in Mexico began growing food plants, including squash and lima beans. The discovery of farming transformed life. No longer did families have to wander in search of food. In dry regions, farmers developed methods of irrigation. Irrigation is a method to water crops by channeling water from rivers or streams. Farmers also learned how to raise animals such as cattle, pigs, and llamas.

With a more dependable food supply, the population grew more rapidly. Once Native Americans produced surplus, or extra, food, they traded with others. Some farming communities grew into cities. The cities became centers of government and religious life.

That long-gone land between the continents is known as Beringia. About 40,000 years ago – circa 38,000 B.C.E. (circa is Latin for «about») – the land bridge was open between Asia and America, and animals went back and forth on it. Some experts think people did, too, but no one knows for sure. Then the land bridge disappeared. It was covered with water.

About 26,000 B.C.E., Beringia (the land bridge) opened up again. Big animals came to Beringia; and at some point, people came, too. Some of the people walked there; some came by sea. There was lots to eat. For everyday dining, the hunters and the fisher folk lived on small game and small fish – but they had the skills to kill mammoths and whales, and when they could, they did. The mammoths and giant sloths and camels were plant eaters, and only moderately dangerous. It was the meat-eating animals – the saber-toothed cats, the maned lions, and the huge bears – who must have licked their lips after munching on humans. That was the way of the hunting world.

(Далі буде)